

Knowing God, Living Freely, Loving All
Week Three: Loving All

1 John 3:11-18 (NASB)

- 11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; 12 not as Cain, *who* was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.
- 13 Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.
- 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.
- 15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.
- 16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.
- 17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?
- 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

1 John 3:11-18 (NLT)

- 11 This is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another.
- 12 We must not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and killed his brother. And why did he kill him? Because Cain had been doing what was evil, and his brother had been doing what was righteous.
- 13 So don't be surprised, dear brothers and sisters, if the world hates you.
- 14 If we love our brothers and sisters who are believers, it proves that we have passed from death to life. But a person who has no love is still dead.
- 15 Anyone who hates another brother or sister is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don't have eternal life within them.
- 16 We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.
- 17 If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person?
- 18 Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

Questions to Ponder and Discuss

1. What is the heart of the message of this passage?

2. Read the story of Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:1-8). What do you learn from that story? How does what you've learned help you understand this passage?

3. Why does John mean when he says that love is the test of whether someone has passed from death to life?

4. How does John define love in vv. 16-18? How does that differ from common understandings of love? What prevents you from loving sacrificially?

5. What one person has taught you the most about love? How?

