

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

I JOHN 3:11-18

Lesson 11

REVIEW:

Review I John 3:1-10. One of the wonderful expressions of God's love which has *been bestowed upon us* is that we are *called the children (sons) of God*. What comes to your mind when you dwell on this incredible privilege?

FIRST DAY:

Read and study I John 3:1-10 inductively. See pages 5 and 6.

SECOND DAY: Read I John 3:11, 12

1. We have studied in I John 2:7-11 and I John 3:11 the importance of living in the message we have *heard from the beginning* and we will study it again as we continue to examine this wonderful book of I John. What is *the message that we have heard from the beginning*? Verse 11
 - a. We have learned from I John 3:9 that *God's seed in us* enables us to walk righteously and to love one another. One might ask, "If this is true, then why does John keep commanding us to love? Shouldn't this *love for one another* just come naturally?" Why do you think that we must be reminded to *love one another*?
 - b. Tradition tells us that when John was at a very old age, he was often asked to give a word in various churches. His message was always the same, *My little children, love one another*. Why do you think this was so very important to John?
2. In I John 3:12 John tells us how we are *not* to love. Who does he use as an example?
 - a. Read Genesis 4:1-12 and summarize the account of Cain and Abel.
 - 1.) Contrast Cain's motives and actions with love as it is described in I Corinthians 13:4-6

3. *Cain was of the wicked one and his works were evil* (I John 3:12). John reminds us that a believer will not react like Cain. Those of the *wicked one* walk in self-love while those who walk in righteousness walk in love for others and have pure motives. Describe what you think the progression of Cain's thoughts were that led to murder.

_____ > _____ > _____ > _____ > murder

- a. The believer is not exempt from impure thoughts, but has been given the resources to stop this progression. Underline, in the following verse, our part in reacting to the temptation to sin:

If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it. Genesis 4:7 NASB

- 1.) Explain how we master sin. (Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer.)

THIRD DAY: Read I John 3:13, 14

1. According to I John 3:13, what did John tell the believers?
- a. *Marvel not*, (do not think it so unusual, do not be surprised)... *if the world hate you*. John had just pointed out the fact that Cain hated Abel, his brother. Now he reminds us that we are not to think it strange if the world hates us in the same manner. According John 15:18 and 19, why does *the world hate* believers?
2. Consider the following questions:
What is the difference between the love of believers and the world's love?
Are we different in the ways that we withhold love?
Or are we different only in the ways that we express it?
What does the world specifically see in Christians that it does not see in itself?
What does the world see in you?
Share your response to one of above questions.
3. How do we know that *we have passed from death unto life*? I John 3:14
4. Often we allow for gray area between love and not loving (hate). We settle for being somewhere in the middle and justify our actions (or lack of them) because we are not actually intending ill will. Where would you place yourself on the following scale as far as your reaction towards others?

love.....hate

However, John does not leave us any gray area. He describes love and hate in very black and white terms. Those who *love are of God* and those who *hate are of the devil*. He does not even use the word *hate* in I John 3:14b. He uses the phrase *loves not* (does not express God's love). John would draw his scale like this:

love | hate

- a. If you used John's scale to classify your reactions (or lack of them), how would this change your life?

FOURTH DAY: Read I John 3:15, 16

1. From I John 3:15 write the one word that describes a person who *hates his brother*.
2. The verb *hates* is in the present tense indicating a continual choosing to hate. A Christian may have occasional incidents of anger or hatred, but because these would cause a believer to be out of fellowship with the Lord, the believer will be miserable in that state and will choose to flee from those reactions. What actions are we to take when we find ourselves dealing with anger or hatred toward another?
 - a. Psalm 37:8
 - b. II Corinthians 10:(4) 5
 - c. Add others if you wish
3. I John is a book of contrasts. I John 3:15, 16 pronounce the supreme contrast. Cain's hatred and jealousy resulted in murder; Christ's love resulted in self-sacrifice. In distinguishing from those who *murder*, how does I John 3:16 describe the truest expression of love?
 - a. What is to be our response?
 - 1.) What are some of the things that hinder us from *laying down our lives for the brethren*?
 - a.) How can we overcome these things?

*The self-sacrifice of Christ is not just a revelation of love to be admired;
it is an example to copy.....John Stott*

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 3:17, 18

1. Write I John 3:17 phrase by phrase.
 - a. Describe the phrase *shutteth up his bowels of compassion* in your own words.
2. John is describing those who have the necessities of life such as food, clothing, and shelter. *Sees* is not referring to a hasty glance, but means to deliberately contemplate, to be made aware of. Take a moment to ask God to search your heart. Has He made you aware of someone in need? If He has, how will you respond?
3. What is John's question regarding those who *shut up their bowels of compassion*? I John 3:17c
 - a. What does James 2:14-17 add to this?

4. *My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth* (I John 3:18). Explain the difference between loving in *word* and loving in *deed*.

*So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men,
and especially to those who are of the household of faith.
- Galatians 6:10 NASB*

SIXTH DAY: Review I John 3:11-18

1. I John is a book of contrasts. How is the love of a believer different from the love of the world?
2. Share a time you had a need and God used a brother or sister to meet that need?
3. It is easy to profess love. What are some common excuses that we use for not expressing our love through deeds?
 - a. Which of the above excuses are legitimate?
 - 1.) Which ones are you going to stop using?
4. How are you going to apply what you have learned through your study this week?
5. Diligently commit your desire to change unto the Lord. Ask Him to reveal to you ways that you can love others. Ask Him to make love and hate black and white to you; and cause you to choose love. Be prepared to share next week the difference this has made both in your life and in the lives of others around you.

*Love one another for love is of God.
He who loves is born of God, and knows God.
He who does not love does not know God,
for God is love - God is love.
J. Detweiller*

I John 3:11-18

VERSE

WHAT THE VERSE IS SAYING

- 11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.
- 12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.
- 13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.
- 14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.
- 15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.
- 16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.
- 17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?
- 18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Who:

When:

What:

Where:

Why:

How:

What does this passage mean?

How does it apply to you personally?