

4 Things Every Christian Should Know

1 John 3:11-24

April 14, 2024

*“This is the message you heard from the beginning:
We should love one another” (1 John 3:11).*

1. How can we tell if we love one another? (11-18)

- a. Don't be like Cain
 - i. The link between hatred and murder (see vs.15) is the link between **words** and actions
 - ii. **We know #1** that we *have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers* (also John 5:24)
- b. Do be like Christ
 - i. *This is how **we know #2** what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.* (see also John 10:11,17-18)
 - ii. The link between love and giving **stuff** away is the link between words and actions (see vs. 17)

2. How can we tell if we love one another? (19-24)

- a. Don't just be **talking** about loving others
 - i. *This is how **we know #3** that we belong to the truth and how we convince our hearts before God*
 - ii. A self-condemning heart is silenced by **actions**
 - iii. God knows our hearts, He **hears** and **sees** (see Lev. 19:14)
- b. Do be confident before God
 - i. **Obedience** is one key to answered prayer (see Psa. 66:18)
 - ii. **Belief** and **behavior** show obedience
 1. Believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ
 2. Love one another as he commanded (John 13:34)

*This is how **we know #4** that He lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us*

On Your Own (Better With Others)

1. READ James 2:14-17. Is this teaching the same truth as the passage in 1 John 3:11-24? What is the same? Different?
2. READ Matthew 5:21-24. Is Jesus exaggerating to make a point, or are words a way to bloodlessly murder someone?
3. COMPARE John 13:35 and John 17:23. Which is a more unmistakable sign that we are Jesus' followers—unity or love? Which one leads to the other? What do you need to work on?
4. *Agree/disagree*
Open-hearted love always leads to open-handed generosity.
5. READ Deuteronomy 15:7-11. Is it wrong to consider the ability to repay as a pre-condition of offering a loan in the first place? Why or why not?
6. Do you have confidence before God to boldly ask for anything and expect to receive it? What are two conditions of answered prayer in verse 23?
7. What is one thing that you will change in order to be obedient to the command, *“We should love one another.”*