

Loving One Another

Children of God: Living in the Light of Love, Part 5

January 30-31 | Pastor Chad Bohi

1 John 3:11–24 (NIV) ¹¹ For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. ¹² Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵ Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. ¹⁹ This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴ The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Lessons on Love

The **Elusiveness** of Love (1 John 3:11-15)

Genesis 4:4b–7 (NIV) ⁴ ...The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. ⁶ Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷ If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

(John 3:19-21; Romans 12:16-21; Proverbs 10:12)

The **Evidence** of Love (1 John 3:13-14)

Ephesians 4:31–32 (NIV) ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Psalm 130:3-4; Matthew 6:12-15; 18:21-35)

The **Essence** of Love (1 John 3:16)

1 John 4:9–10 (NIV) ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (John 3:16-17; 13:1; Mark 10:45; John 15:9-10; 1 John 2:5-6)

The **Expression** of Love (1 John 3:17-20)

2 Corinthians 5:14–15 (NIV) ¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. (Romans 13:8-10; Galatians 5:6, 13-14; James 2:14-17)

The **Effect** of Love (1 John 3:21-24)

John 13:35 (NIV) ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (1 Corinthians 13:4-8; 1 Peter 4:8)