

Throughout John's letter he strives to help his audience walk in the assurance of salvation. With the varied heresy and false teachers of Gnosticism running rampant, John labors to show the simple beauty of how one can know they are able to abide in Christ. Love is his central message of a changed heart; first for God, then for others.

1 John 3:11-24

Love

One

Another

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Love is a word thrown around with all kinds of different meanings. We speak often of the things we love: places, food, favorite things, and of course, those nearest us. Establishing a solid understanding of what it means to love is essential, especially in a world where love is flippant-here to day and gone tomorrow. We *can* ultimately know what love is because God has given us not only a definition, but a perfect *demonstration* of it, that we may know.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

IS it possible to know whether or not you are loved by someone else?

WHEN someone speaks of loving someone or something, **HOW** do you know they truly do?

WHAT relationship is there between loving someone in words *and* in deeds?

DO you think it is possible to know, with confidence, whether or not God loves you? **WHAT** would the implications of being loved by God be for you and for Him?

1 John 3:11-24

Read 1 John 3:11-24

Love One Another

OBSERVATION

What is the message John is preaching in vs. 11?

How does John contrast the command to love one another in vs. 11?

Why does John say Cain murdered his brother (vs. 12)?

What contrast does John make between believers and the world in vs. 13?

According to vs. 14-15, how can we know we've passed from death to life?

How can we know what real love is, according to vs. 16?

What is the command given in vs. 18?

What can you observe from vs. 19-21 regarding how we can know we belong to Christ?

What are the two commandments given in vs. 23?

What is the relationship between God and our obedience to Him (vs. 24)?

INTERPRETATION

What does John mean that this message has been "heard from the beginning"? See Leviticus 19:18.

Read John 13:34-35. If this commandment was given in Leviticus, how is it now considered "new" in Christ?

Explain the point John is trying to make in vs. 12-14, and our righteous acts (or lack thereof)? Consider Jesus' message from the sermon on the mount in Matthew 5:27-32 for insight.

What definition of love does John give in this passage, and how does it serve as evidence of our salvation?

Explain what John means in vs. 18, and how did Jesus' work on the cross serve to demonstrate this? See Romans 1:3-4, 5:7-8 for insight.

How did Christ love in word and deed? How was this command demonstrated, specifically? See 2 Corinthians 5:21.

Verses 19-22 can be difficult to understand. What seems to be the role of our heart/conviction and God's knowledge/truth? How can we explain what John is trying to convey in terms of our confidence in Christ, from the text?

APPLICATION

What steps can you take to honor the commands given in vs. 23?