

Message #14**I John 3:15-20**

When Jesus Christ was here, He said in Matt. 5:21-22, “You have heard that the ancients were told you shall not commit murder and whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court, but I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother **without cause** shall be liable at judgment.”

THOSE WHO HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD WILL BE THOSE THAT DEMONSTRATE A TRUE BIBLICAL LOVE AND NOT A MURDEROUS HATRED FOR THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE FELLOWSHIP.

PRINCIPLE #1 – The hate principle as it relates to our brother and fellowship with God. **3:15**

First, the tense of the verb “hate” is present, which speaks of a continual and habitual hatred. John is not referring here to some moment of hatred or some momentary fit of anger. John is speaking about a continual, habitual hatred for the brother that does not end.

The noun brother has an article, which means specific brother is in view and that would be brother within the fellowship. It would be absolutely insane to believe that one who habitually commits murder is right with God. It is equally as insane to believe that one who continually hates his brother or sister within the fellowship is right with God.

PRINCIPLE #2 – The sacrifice principle as it relates to our brother and fellowship with God. **3:16**

We know that one who is in fellowship with God will be one who will be willing to make sacrifices for brothers and sisters in Christ. The illustration John uses is that of Jesus Christ who was willing to lay down His life for us.

Now laying down one’s own life is the extreme and ultimate limit of the kind of sacrifice that can be made. The ultimate standard of love for a brother is the willingness to lay down his own life for the brother.

PRINCIPLE #3 – The material principle as it relates to our brother and fellowship with God. **3:17**

The principle is simple—whenever has this world’s goods and sees his brother’s needs and closes his heart to those needs continually is one who does not have fellowship with God.

The verb “close” is aorist tense referring to the moment one becomes aware of the need. When it refers to a brother, it heightens our sense of obligation and it heightens our sense of neglect.

Now the verb “having need” is present tense, meaning if we see a brother or sister who has a continual need and we close our hearts to trying to help with that need, how can we say we have a right relationship with God?

PRINCIPLE #4 – The deed and truth principle as it relates to our brother and fellowship with God. **3:18**

Love and truth always go together. Love is not an emotional toleration of anything goes. Love is always within the context of truth.

PRINCIPLE #5 – The assurance principle as it relates to our brother and fellowship with God. **3:19-20**

When we are living life in the context of love and truth, we have assurance that we are right with God.

There will be times when we will not measure up to the five principles just examined. When those moments occur in our life, when we don't measure up and our heart condemns us, we can take comfort in the fact that God knows what we are made of and He knows we do not measure up to His great level of love.