

Love and its Opposite

Sermon 9 in the 1 John Series

1 John 3:10b-18

1. Do you do what is right and live as a Christian?
2. Do you love your fellow Christians?

Plummer says, “Show yourselves to be true children of God. Practice these two virtues.”

I. The Negative Example of Cain 3:11-12

A. We should Love One Another -- v.11

B. The Way of Cain – v. 12

What is the way of Cain? **Jude 11** -- Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

C. The Motivation of Cain

Hebrews 11:4 -- By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

1. It is common to think that the sacrifice of Cain was not acceptable because it was not a blood sacrifice – as was Able’s.
2. We do know Cain did not offer his sacrifice by faith and his actions proved his hate.

D. From Earliest times – there have been two Communities

The righteous – which in our day we see within the community of believers – which is the church.

The unrighteous – the community of “the world”. Whether they are literally “God-haters” or whether they worship false gods – or whether they seek to worship God without true faith and a true heart for God.

II. Cain's Sin of Murder -- Genesis 4:1-15

III. Gross Hatred and Ultimate Love 3:13-18

A. The Hatred of the World v. 13

John 15:18 — "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you.

John 16:1-3 -- "These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble.

² They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.

³ And these things they will do ^{to} you because they have not known the Father nor Me.

B. Love vs. Hate v. 14-15

Because John uses such a strong word as "hate" and then uses Cain as a graphic illustration it could be easy to forget that his point is LOVE.

To not love – is to hate.

And to hate – is to be guilty of the sin of murderer in God's eyes.

C. Ultimate Love v. 16

D. Practical Love v. 17-18