

LOVING ONE ANOTHER, OR HATING ONE ANOTHER

I. A PERSON IS A CHILD OF GOD, OR A CHILD OF THE DEVIL – Galatians 5:19-22

The child of God practices righteousness. 1 John 3:7

The child of the devil does not practice righteousness. 1 John 3:10, John 8:44

II. THE CHILD OF THE DEVIL DOES NOT TRULY LOVE PEOPLE

A. There are three kinds of love: “*eros*” – physical love, “*phileo*” – family or brotherly love, and “*agape*” – spiritual and godly love. We are talking here about “*agape*” love.

B. The unbeliever, the non-Christian, the child of the devil can love in physical or family / brotherly ways, but not in a true, spiritual and godly way. John 15:12-17

III. THIS MESSAGE OF LOVE IS AN OLD MESSAGE – 1 John 3:11, 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

It is an old message personally, and in that we go back to the example of Cain and Abel.

IV. THE EXAMPLE OF CAIN - HE DID NOT LOVE, HE HATED – 1 John 3:12, Genesis 4:1-8

A. To love means to not do certain things - “*Love is not jealous, love does not brag...*”

B. Cain was a sinner, a child of the devil. His heart was evil and his deeds were evil. He did not have faith. He did not have a right heart. He was angry at God, jealous of Abel, selfish, and unloving. And therefore, he hated Abel, and murdered him.

C. The lesson for us: it starts with being saved, being a child of God. It starts with repenting of your sins, and believing that Jesus Christ, by dying for you, paid the penalty for your sins. Then you are forgiven and can love others. 1 John 4:19 - “*We love because He first loved us.*”

D. It's vital that you immerse yourself in the great love of God!!! Jude 21, Psalm 86:13

V. THE WORLD HATES YOU - 1 John 3:13

A. Hate is one strongest emotions – it starts in a person's heart, and then affects his feelings, his emotions, and then can result in sinful words, and in sinful actions.

B. “*Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.*” Acts

C. John 15:18-25 – Jesus' important instructions about hate, suffering and persecution. All the apostles greatly suffered, and all were martyred, except John.

VI. SOME LESSONS ABOUT HATE AND PERSECUTION

A. You are hated for the Lord's sake, for His name, His truth, and His glory. Psalm 23:3

B. Being hated and suffering persecution results from being godly. Being godly is seen in our words and lives. People do not like it when you tell them about sin, guilt, death, and hell. Remember, Jesus was hated first. 2 Timothy 3:11, Acts 7:54-60, John 7:7

C. The unbelieving world hates you – this is seen in governments, schools, media, business, internet, entertainment, and in false religions and churches. This world system is against God, against Christ, against the true church, against godly ministers, against God's Word, and against you. We have been blessed in this country, but it's going to get worse. Matthew 24:9, 1 John 4:4

D. This hate against God and His people will get worse, particularly as we get closer to the end of the age, and specifically when the antichrist is here, during what is called the great tribulation. Matthew 24:9, 21; Luke 21:12-19

E. **THE GODLY CHALLENGE:** Are you willing to serve the Lord and fight for Him? Are you willing to fight for the truth, for the gospel, and against the devil's lies and errors? Are you willing to fight even when there's opposition and great persecution? Ephesians 6:10-12 Are you willing to keep loving your enemies, and sharing the truth with them? Mark 13:10-11

G. The **GREAT BLESSING** of being persecuted, of suffering for the Lord. Matthew 5:10-12

**“A SLAVE IS NOT GREATER THAN HIS MASTER.”
IF THEY PERSECUTED ME, THEY WILL ALSO PERSECUTE YOU.
IF THEY KEPT MY WORD, THEY WILL KEEP YOURS ALSO.
John 15:20**

1. What is the main thing that you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. What are some of the differences between a child of the devil and a child of God?
3. Define true and godly love, versus fleshly and family / brotherly love?
4. What was Cain like? What was Abel like? Why did Cain kill Abel?
5. What does it mean that the world hates you? How do you see and experience it in your own life?
Think about how you would respond to a person who hates you because of the Lord?
6. Are you committed to following the Lord, to live, suffer and die for Him.
How can you grow in this commitment, this desire?
7. What can you do to grow in knowing the Lord's love? Why is this so important?