

INTRODUCTION

1. Please take God's Word and turn with me to 1 John chapter 3.
2. This morning we are considering verses 10-18.
3. Up to this point John has been showing us that those who are truly in Christ do not practice sin.
4. He spent the last 6 verses pressing that point.
5. In verse 10 he gives a summary of who is a child of God and who is a child of the devil.
6. Children of God practice righteousness and they always love their brothers and sisters in

Christ.

7. The last part of verse 10 is where he mentions habitual love and carries that through the remainder of the chapter.
8. For our consideration this morning, I'd like to read verses 10-18 as we prepare to study them.
9. John says, "By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. 11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; 12 not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous. 13 Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the

brethren. He who does not love abides in death. 15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”

10. In our last two messages we saw the Christians incompatibility with sin.
11. We saw 5 principles in verses 4-10.
12. John said if you practice sin you're not a Christian (v.4).
13. It doesn't matter what you say or profess.

14. If the habit of your life is still sin then it reveals that you are still in your sins and have not been delivered from them.
15. Second John says that Jesus came to take away sin (v.15).
16. To continue to practice sin is inconsistent with the purpose of Christ's coming.
17. Jesus came to take away sin so why would professing Christians still be practicing it.
18. Third, John says, Christians continue in Christ not sin (v.6a).
19. The true habit of one who has been born of God is his habit of abiding in Christ.
20. His masters has changed.
21. He now continuously serves Jesus Christ.

22. John continues in verses 6b-18 by saying, If you continue in sin you haven't seen Him or known Him.
23. Again it doesn't matter what you say.
24. How do you live?
25. That reveals where your heart is.
26. Last, John says, no one who is born of God practices sin (vv.9-10).
27. The habit of a true Christian, according to the end of verse 10, is loving his brother in Christ.
28. John again uses the present tense to make his point.
29. The unbeliever's love is sin.
30. He practices unrighteousness.

31. The true believer's love is first Christ because now he has His righteousness but it is also his brother in Christ.
32. The present tense verb "love" at the end of verse 10 is used to reveal that he continuously loves his brother.
33. And in verse 11 John exhorts the true believers to this kind of love.
34. He says...

REVIEW

- I. **If You Practice Sin You're Not a Child of God (v.4)**
- II. **Jesus Came to Take Away Sin (v.5)**
- III. **Christians Continue in Christ Not Sin (v.6a)**

IV. If You Continue in Sin You Haven't Seen Him or Known Him (vv.6b-8)

V. No One Who is Born of God Practices Sin (vv.9-10)

LESSON

VI. We Should Love One Another (v.11)

A. This Has Always Been True of God's People

1. John said "this is the message you have heard from the beginning."
2. "From the beginning" is a reference to the "beginning of the proclamation of the Gospel."
3. This is also a reference from the OT.

4. Leviticus 19:18 (NASB) says, “You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord.”
5. Leviticus 19:34 (NASB) says, “The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.”
6. Since the beginning of gospel proclamation, love has been a central theme of Christianity.¹
7. Jesus said in Matthew 22:37-39 (NASB) “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your

¹ MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. [The MacArthur Study Bible](#). electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997. Print.

mind.’ 38 This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

8. This is only fulfilled through salvation in Jesus Christ.
9. Unbelievers do not have the ability or the capacity to love like this but believers do because they have the Holy Spirit.
10. Romans 5:5 says, “...the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”
11. Jesus called for loving your enemy in Matthew 5:44.
12. He called for the disciples to love one another in John 13:35.

13. Paul called for love to permeate the believer's life in 1 Cor.13.
14. Love fulfills the law of God (Gal.5:13-14).
15. John has already exhorted his readers to love one another in 2:7-9. (READ)
16. He does it again here and in 4:7, 11-12, 21. (READ)
17. The word that John uses for "love" in verse 11 is the same word he's been using throughout his letter.
18. It's the verb agapao which comes from the noun agape.
19. W.E. Vine says, "Love can be known only from the actions it prompts. God's love is seen in the gift of His Son, 1 John 4:9, 10. But

obviously this is not the love of complacency, or affection, that is, it was not drawn out by any excellency in its objects, Rom. 5:8. It was an exercise of the Divine will in deliberate choice made without assignable cause save that which lies in the nature of God Himself cp. Deut. 7:7, 8. “Love had its perfect expression among men in the Lord Jesus Christ, 2 Cor. 5:14; Eph. 2:4; 3:19; 5:2; Christian love is the fruit of His Spirit in the Christian, Gal. 5:22. “Christian love has God for its primary object, and expresses itself first of all in implicit obedience to His commandments, John 14:15, 21, 23; 15:10; 1 John 2:5; 5:3; 2 John 6. Self-will, that is, self-pleasing, is the negation of love to God. “Christian love, whether exercised toward the brethren, or toward men generally, is not an impulse from the feelings,

it does not always run with the natural inclinations, nor does it spend itself only upon those for whom some affinity is discovered. Love seeks the welfare of all, Rom. 15:2, and works no ill to any, 13:8-10; love seeks opportunity to do good to 'all men, and especially toward them that are of the household of the faith,' Gal. 6:10."²

B. Like Sin is a Habit for Unbelievers Love is a Habit for True Believers

1. John uses the word "love" (agapao) in the present tense to indicate continuous action.
2. Unbelievers habitually sin
3. True believers habitually love

² Vine, W.E., and F.F. Bruce. [*Vine's Expository dictionary of Old and New Testament words*](#) 1981 : 21. Print.

Now in verses 12-15 John defines the opposite of love with an illustration of Cain and from this teaches that...

VII. Unbelievers Do Not Love True Believers (vv.12-15)

A. They Murder Like Cain (v.12a)

“Not as Cain” - Cain was born after the fall of Adam and Eve (Gen.4:1) and was the firstborn (Gen.4:1). Abel was the second child born to Adam and Eve (Gen.4:2).

Genesis 4 records Cain's murder of his brother Abel. (READ)

John says that Cain murdered his brother...Why?

1. Because They Are of the Evil One (v.12)

- a) This is true not just of Cain but of all unbelievers
- b) John 8:44 says their father is the devil.
- c) 1 John 5:19 says “the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.”
- d) Ephesians 2:2 says unbelievers walk “according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.”

Not only are they of the evil one but because they are of the evil one...

- 2. Because Their Deeds Are Evil (v.12b)

- a) Cain's offering was not acceptable because he was sinful (cf. Gen. 4:5). Jealousy was behind his hate and murder, as in the case of the religious leaders who had Christ executed.³

- b) Ephesians 4:17ff shows the deeds of the Gentiles (READ)

- c) Galatians 5:19-21 (NASB) reveals the evil deeds of unbelievers when Paul says, "Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and

³ Ibid., MacArthur.

things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Not only do unbelievers murder like Cain but...

B. They Hate Like the World (vv.13-15)

John says in verse 13, “Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.”

“Hates” is in the present tense again to speak of continuous action.

1. Jesus said to His disciples in John 15:18-19 (NASB) If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love

its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

Not only does the world hate true believers because it hates Jesus but they also hate God the Father.

2. Jesus said in John 15:23 “He who hates Me hates My Father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. 25 But they have done this to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, ‘They hated Me without a cause.’

The world does not “know us because it did not know Him” (1 John 3:1), therefore they do not understand us or like us.

The world would like it we weren't here -- that has always been the case throughout history. Christians have always been persecuted.

3. Hebrews 11:35-38 (NASB) says, “...others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; 36 and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated 38 (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.”

4. John says in 1 John 3:14 those who hate “abides in death.”
5. Someone who is characterized by hate has never experienced the new birth.⁴
6. He always was dead spiritually, and that is what he still is.⁵
7. Daniel Akin says, “The absence of Christian love indicates that one has not passed into the state of spiritual life but remains (*menei*) in the realm of spiritual death. They walk in the darkness, not in the light. This state of spiritual death is one into which a person is born and continues to exist if regeneration does not occur (cf. Eph 2:1). Whatever one claims, the absence of love proves that one

⁴ Ibid., MacArthur.

⁵ MacDonald, William. [*Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments*](#). Ed. Arthur Farstad. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995. Print.

still remains outside the sphere of the life of God and in the realm of death and darkness (cf. 2:9–11).

This statement serves as a stern warning for anyone at anytime who finds an absence of love in his heart.”⁶

8. John takes hate to the next step in verse 15 by saying, “Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.”
9. Murder is sin.
10. It’s a violation of the 6th Commandment (Ex.20:13).
11. Hatred is spiritually the same as murder in the eyes of God, i.e., the attitude is equal to the act. Hate is

⁶ Akin, Daniel L. [1, 2, 3 John](#). Vol. 38. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2001. Print. The New American Commentary.

the seed that leads to murder, as seen in the example of the hatred of Cain for Abel that resulted in murder.⁷

12. It's also seen in Genesis 27:41 in the words of Esau after he was refused the blessing of the firstborn by his father. It says, "So Esau bore a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him; and Esau said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob."

13. The Israelites were told in Leviticus 19:16-18 (NASB) "You shall not go about as a slanderer among your people, and you are not to act against the life of your neighbor; I am the Lord. 17 'You shall not hate your fellow countryman in your

⁷ Ibid, MacArthur,

heart; you may surely reprove your neighbor, but shall not incur sin because of him. 18 You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord.”

14. In the New Testament Jesus said in Matthew 5:21-22 (NASB) “You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘You shall not commit murder’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’ 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery

hell.

15. Matthew 5:27-28 (NASB) “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’; 28 but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
16. So the attitude is equal to the act before God.
17. Therefore John says, “Anyone” who continually hates (*misōn*, present active participle) is in essence a murderer (*anthrōpoktonos*, lit., “man-killer”).⁸
18. And when John says **that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him**, he does not mean that a murderer cannot be saved. He

⁸ Ibid., Akin

simply means that a man who characteristically hates his fellows is a potential murderer and is not saved.⁹

So we should love one another, not like unbelievers do. They do not love believers. In fact...

VIII. Unbelievers Do Not Care About True Believers (vv.16-18)

John says in verses 16-18, “We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”

⁹ Ibid., MacDonald.

A. True Believers Know Love By Christ
(v.16a)

“We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us.”

1. Christ is the greatest example of sacrificial love
2. As seen in Him laying down His life for us
3. Jesus said in John 10:14-15 (NASB), “I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, 15 even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.”
4. He said in John 15:13 (NASB) Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his

friends.

5. Romans 5:8 (NASB) even says that “God [the Father] demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
6. Another reference to the Father’s love in giving us Christ is the well known verse found in John 3:16.

John continues in verse 16 by not only showing us that true believers know love by Christ but...

B. True Believers Have the Capacity to Love Like Jesus (v.16b)

“And we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

1. 1 John 2:6 (NASB) the one who says he abides in Him ought

himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

2. John 13:34 (NASB) A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. (He just met their need by washing their feet)
3. Paul said in Romans 16:3-4 (NASB) Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, 4 who for my life risked their own necks, to whom not only do I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.
4. He said in Philippians 2:25-30 (NASB) But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my

need; 26 because he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. 27 For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned about you. 29 Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard; 30 because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service to me.

5. Paul told the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 15:31 (NASB) I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our

Lord, I die daily.

6. This is what characterized the early church. In Acts 2:44-45 (NASB) it says, “And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.”

This is the kind of love that comes from a relationship with Christ. It's selfless and sacrificial.

But this is not true of unbelievers. Verse 17 says...

- C. Unbelievers Close Their Hearts to Those in Need (v.17)

John says in 1 John 3:17 (NASB) But whoever has the world's goods, and

sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

William MacDonald says, “John distinctly says that a man is not a Christian who **sees his brother in need** and yet withholds from him what is necessary to satisfy that need. This does not justify indiscriminate giving to everyone, because it is possible to harm a man by giving him money with which to buy what would not be good for him.”¹⁰

John MacArthur says where this kind of love does not exist, “it is questionable that God’s love is present. If that is so, it is also questionable whether the person is the Lord’s child (v.14).¹¹

¹⁰ Ibid., MacDonald.

¹¹ Ibid., MacArthur.

1. Deuteronomy 15:7-11 (NASB) “If there is a poor man with you, one of your brothers, in any of your towns in your land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, nor close your hand from your poor brother; 8 but you shall freely open your hand to him, and shall generously lend him sufficient for his need in whatever he lacks. 9 Beware that there is no base thought in your heart, saying, ‘The seventh year, the year of remission, is near,’ and your eye is hostile toward your poor brother, and you give him nothing; then he may cry to the Lord against you, and it will be a sin in you. 10 You shall generously give to him, and your heart shall not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all your undertakings.

11 For the poor will never cease to be in the land; therefore I command you, saying, ‘You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land.’

2. When John the Baptist was preaching a baptism of repentance, Luke 3:10-11 (NASB) says, “And the crowds were questioning him, saying, “Then what shall we do?”
11 And he would answer and say to them, “The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise.”
3. Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:17-18 (NASB) Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all

things to enjoy. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share.”

4. Hebrews 13:15-16 (NASB)

Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

16 And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Adam Clarke says, “Here is a test of this love; if we do not divide our bread with the hungry, we certainly would not lay down our life for him. Whatever love we may pretend to mankind, if we are not charitable and benevolent, we give the lie to our profession. If we have not bowels of compassion, we have not the love of God in us; if we shut up our bowels against the poor, we shut Christ

out of our hearts, and ourselves out of heaven.”

Since unbelievers close their hearts to those in need...

D. True Believers Have the Capacity to love in Deed and Truth (v.18)

Making that contrast with unbelievers, John says, “Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”

“In other words, it should not be a matter of affectionate terms only, neither should it be an expression of what is not true. But it should be manifested in actual deeds of kindness and should be genuine instead of false.”¹²

¹² Ibid., MacDonald.

So “claiming to love is not enough.
Love is not sentiment, but deeds.”¹³

1. Jesus said in Matthew 25:31-46 (NASB) “But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; 33 and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. 34 “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me

¹³ Ibid., MacArthur.

in; 36 naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’ 37 Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? 38 And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? 39 When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ 40 The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’ 41 “Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; 42 for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to

drink; 43 I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me. 44 Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' 45 Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' 46 These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

2. Romans 12:9 (NASB) Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.
3. Romans 12:13 (NASB) contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

CONCLUSION

1. Do you love one another?
2. What about strangers, people you don't know?
3. Or do you have hate in your heart, lack of concern for others?
4. If you're a true believer you will lay down your life for other believers and not shut up your compassion against those who are in need.
5. Because now you have the capacity to love in deed and truth.
6. If none of this exists, then you're not saved and you need to repent and surrender your life to Jesus for salvation.
7. You can do that right now as we pray. Let's pray.