

Life That Is Real
“How’s Your Love Life?”
I John 3:11-18
Pt. 9

Introduction - John divides the entire human race into two families. One He calls “the children of God”, the other “the children of the devil” (3:10). There’s no intermediate class. Then John makes it clear that God’s children have two birthmarks (3:10b).

1. Righteousness - so the contrast, vv. 4-10.
2. Love - so the contrast, vv. 11-18.

The way John combines righteousness and love is worthy of notice. - the suggestion is that where one is, the other will also be found. A life of righteousness is a life of love. Love is the highest expression of righteousness.

In our text today, John paints a stark contrast between *hatred and murder* and *love and self-sacrifice*. He uses no colors, but black and white. If you are a true child of God, you will be marked by a *life of love*.

Now, there are three lessons we learn about love from this text.

I. Love Was The Passion of the Apostolic Message, vv. 11-13.

A. This is the message, what?

- “Ye heard from the beginning”. What?
- That you should love one another.
- It’s a command; in the present tense, to love the brethren, see 2:9-11.

B. John gives two negative examples, vv. 12-13.

- Love between Christian brothers is now contrasted with the hatred of Cain for his brother Abel.
- Cain was a prototype of the world. So verse 13, the world is Cain’s posterity. Why? John 3:19. So two brotherhoods, “Cain’s” or “Christ’s”.

II. Love is the Proof that We Have Passed Out of Death and into life, vv. 14-15.

- Verse 14, “have passed” used of a person migrating from one country to another; it’s in the perfect tense! Its happened in the past with results continuing into the future. No middle ground.

“If Christians really do love one another, then they will not spend so much time criticizing one another, as is often the case. They will not abandon the assembling of themselves together while substituting some kind of private religion. They will not neglect one another’s needs. Instead, they will find themselves uniting together in a spiritual fellowship in which the Lord is worshiped and they themselves are mutually encouraged in the Christian life.” - James Boyce

- Verse 15, same as Jesus, Matt. 5.

III. Love has its Supreme Pattern in the Sacrificial Death of Christ, vv. 16-18.

N.I.V. - “This is how we know what love is; Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.”
So note, we should follow His pattern.

Our love should be:

- 1. Sacrificial, vs. 16.**
- 2. Simple, vs. 17.**
- 3. Sincere, vs. 18.**

“Thus love is seen to be the manward evidence of our being children of God. Not what we think, however accurately; not what we feel, however strongly; not what we say, however eloquently; but what we do in genuine, practical, self-sacrificing activity, is the sole proof and test of our brother-love.” Griffith Thomas

When it comes to the matter of love, there are four possible levels of relationship a person may live on:

- 1. Murder**
- 2. Hatred**
- 3. Indifference**
- 4. Christian love and compassion.**