

Our Relationship with God and Christ

A Study of 1 John

Part 3 – Love for God and Our Brethren

The Importance of Love (3:10-15)

We Are Given Standards to Meet (vv. 10-12).

- **These standards set reveal the children of God (v. 10).**
- **Righteousness and love are defining traits for the children of God (2:3-11; 3:4-9).**
- **The message from the beginning: love one another (v. 11; Matt. 22:39; John 13:34, 35).**
- **“Not as Cain...” (v. 12; Gen. 4:3-8).**
- **Paul’s family (2 Peter 3:15; Acts 9:26, 27; 16; 2 Tim 1:2; Titus 1:4; Acts 18:1-3; Rom. 16:3, 4).**

The Importance of Love (3:10-15)

We As Christians Are Meant to be a Family (vv. 13-15).

- **Hatred is a worldly way (v. 13; John 15:18-21).**
- **One thing most in the world have in common: a hatred for God and His people.**
- **A warning: without love, we abide in death (vv. 14, 15; Matt. 22:37-40; 1 Cor. 13:13).**
- **We are not to hate, but to love each other (v. 14; Rom. 6:3, 4).**

Love in Action (3:16-23)

Knowing Love from Jesus and Showing the Same Love (vv. 16, 17).

- **We know love because Jesus laid down His life for us (v. 16; John 3:16; 1 Cor. 13).**
- **To lay down one's life is the ultimate form of love (v. 16; John 15:13; 1 Thess. 4:9, 10).**
- **Another way we lay down our lives (v. 17; Gal. 6:10; Prov. 3:27, 28).**
- **Jesus laid down His life the moment He was conceived (John 1:2, 3; Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 10:45).**
- **What do we sacrifice for our brethren?**

Love in Action (3:16-23)

Love Is More Than Just a Feeling (vv. 18-23).

- **Love is shown by our actions (v. 18).**
- **Actions in love prove that we are of the truth (vv. 19, 20; James 1:22; Matt. 25:31-46).**
- **Confidence before God (vv. 21, 22; Micah 6:8; 2 Tim 4:7, 8).**
- **Obedience and love are defining traits of all Christians (vv. 22, 23; Matt. 22:37-40; 1 Peter 3:12).**

Spirits of Truth and of Error (3:24-4:6)

Instruction: Discern the Spirits.

- **Those who keep the commands abide in the Spirit (3:24; John 14:23).**
- **But not every spirit is of God (4:1; 2 Cor. 11:13, 14).**
- **Spirits are tested by what they confess (4:2, 3; Gal. 1:6-9).**
- **Such things have not changed today.**
- **But we are of God, we are His children (4:4; 1 Cor. 10:13; James 4:7, 8).**
- **We are not alone (3:18, 19; 4:5, 6; Gal. 6:2; James 5:13-16; Eccl 4:9-12).**

Knowing and Seeing God Through Perfect Love (4:7-19)

We Know God Through Love (vv. 7-11).

- We love one another because God is love (vv. 7, 8; Gen. 1:26; 27; Heb. 12:6; James 1:17).**
- God's love was manifested in Him sending Jesus (v. 9; John 3:16; Gen. 22; Rom. 5:8).**
- Before we knew God, before we loved Him, He loved us first (vv. 10, 11; Rom. 5:8).**

Knowing and Seeing God Through Perfect Love (4:7-19)

We See God Through Love (vv. 12-19).

- Though we have not seen God face to face, He is never far from us (v. 12; Acts 17:27).**
- God abides in us, and we abide in Him (vv. 15, 16; Matt 10:32; John 20:29, 31).**
- It is declared that love has been perfected among us (vv. 17-19).**

