

## **The Essentials of Our Faith – Studies In I John #13**

Love Is Action  
I John 3:11-17

“For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. We must not be like Cain who was from the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother’s righteous. Do not be astonished, brothers and sisters, that the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death. All who hate a brother or sister are murderers, and you know that murderers do not have eternal life abiding in them. We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?”

### **I. Getting Into The Text**

- A.** The terrible story of Cain and Abel
  - Genesis 4:1-10
  - Abel
    1. Children of God, righteous, life, love, righteous conduct and fellowship
  - Cain
    1. Children of the devil, known by evil acts, death and murder, hate, unrighteous conduct, hostility to children of God
  - Light and darkness
  - Love each other
- B.** What you heard from the beginning
  - From Jesus
  - From John
  - God is light
  - If you are in the light the character of God comes out, love and righteousness
  - Cain doesn't love and isn't righteous (murderer)
  - Hence, he is in darkness
  - Jesus is the example – love → death for others

- Those who left didn't love – darkness
- Children of God reflect love
- Those in the dark (world) hate – don't love us
- Love for each other is the evidence that we have moved from death to life because love only comes from God

### **C.** The example that brings life

- VS 16 this is what love is
- Concrete and active, not just felt or thought, but lived out
- Explanation of the extent of God's love
- That we are saved is evidence of God's love
- VS 17 a question
- Answer exposes light or darkness, life or death, children of God or devil
- Sacrifice in showing love to others in need
- Starts with the body

## **II. Thoughts**

- A.** Our greatest need as humans is to be loved by the significant people in our lives
- B.** To deny love to those who are significant to us is evil, even murder
- C.** Lack of love destroys life -
  - All the brokenness in our world
- D.** The evidence that we are alive and belong to Christ is that we show healing love to others
- E.** It is always sacrificial: Jesus' example
- F.** As I become aware (conscious in real terms) of how much I am loved by the Lord, I am freed of my fears and inadequacies and am empowered to share God's love sacrificially to others
- G.** Love is giving others what they need:
  - Spouse
  - Children
  - Friends
  - Brothers and Sisters in Christ
  - Others
- H.** Let God love you so you can love others, it's the sign that you are in the light
- I.** The Lord's Supper