

Abiding in Light, Love, and Life

Notes & Application

Walking the Talk of Love

1 JOHN 3:11-24

Overview

John continues his pastoral message to his readers (followers of Jesus Christ) by reminding them of the message they have heard from the time they first heard the Gospel: to love one another. He teaches them about what to do when doubt arises in their hearts and how to live when they have every confidence that they are children of God. He concludes this section by reminding them about his purpose in writing to them: to point them (once again) to belief in God's Son, Jesus Christ, and the love for one another that flows from the power of the indwelling Spirit of God.

Outline

1. The Message: Love one another (3:11-22)
 - a. The Actions of the Heart (3:12-15)
 - b. The Knowledge of the Heart (3:16-22)
2. The Command: Believe in the name of Jesus Christ and love one another (3:23-24)

Reflection Questions

1. Who is the source of the message that John's readers had heard? (See John 13:34-35.) What is the context in which that message was first delivered?
2. The story of Cain and Abel is found in Genesis 4:1-16. According to Genesis 4:3-4, what were Cain and Abel both doing before Cain murdered his brother? According to 1 John 3:12, what was the root of Cain's evil deed?
3. According to 1 John 3:14, what is the evidence of having passed from death to life? What does this look like specifically in your life? What are some of the challenges you have faced to practicing love for your brothers and sisters?
4. What is the standard of love? (See 1 John 3:16.) What does this standard require of you? How are you intentionally seeking to practice this in your own life?
5. As a follower of Christ, what sort of doubts have you faced? What does 1 John 3:19-20 teach regarding how to deal with doubt?
6. How does John present the relationship of belief in the name of Jesus Christ and love for one another (1 John 3:23)? What role does the Holy Spirit play in keeping God's commandments?
7. How is God encouraging and convicting you from this passage? How do you need to respond?