

Love One Another



1 John 3:11-24



- What message had these saints heard from the beginning?
 - From the creation ... probably not, doesn't fit the context
 - Though love is from the beginning and before: God is Love!
 - From Jesus ... probably not, since they had not be present to see Jesus personally
 - From hearing the message of Jesus, the Gospel ... more likely



- 1 John 1:1-5 (ESV) 1 That which was from the beginning,
 - which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and **proclaim** to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— 3 that which we have seen and heard we **proclaim** also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. 5 This is the **message** we have heard from him and **proclaim** to you, that **God is light**, and in him is no darkness at all.



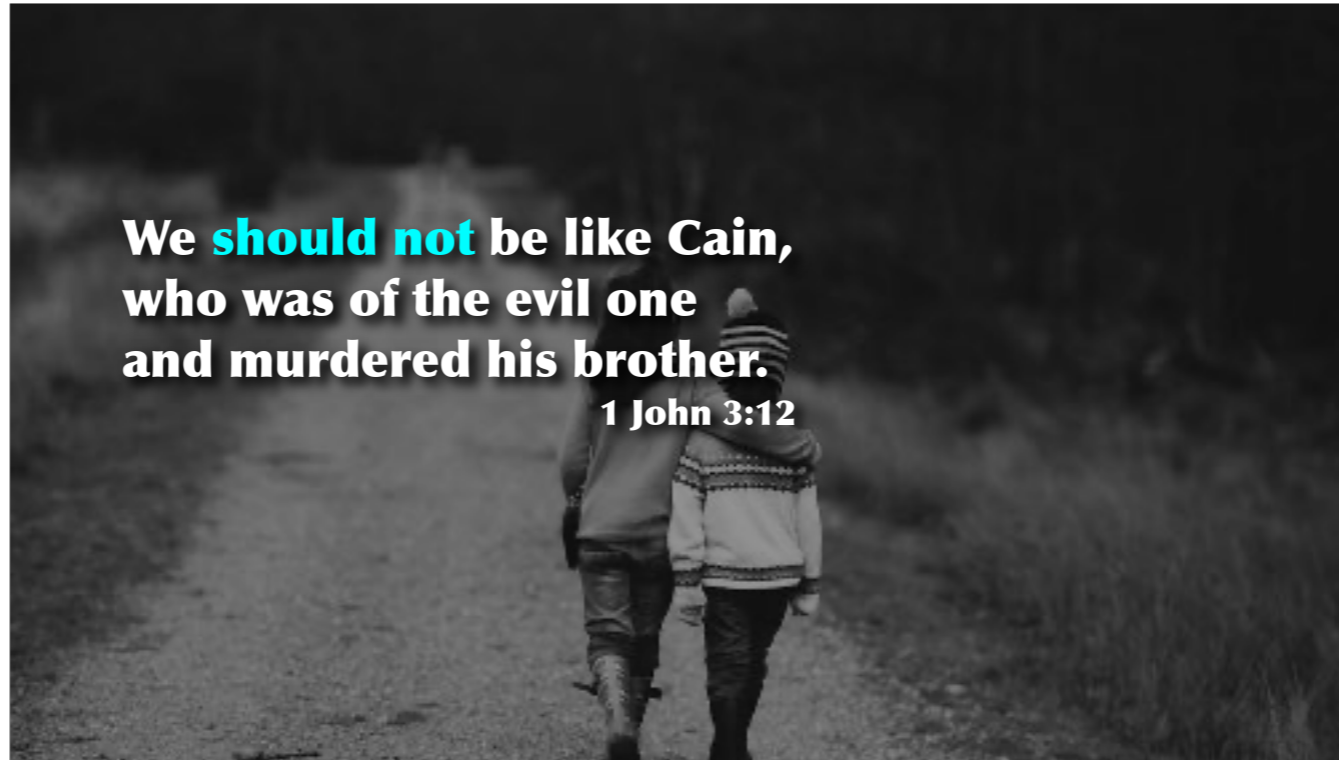
- The story of the gospel is a story of love ...
- John 3:16 (ESV) 16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 (ESV) 16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, 17 comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.



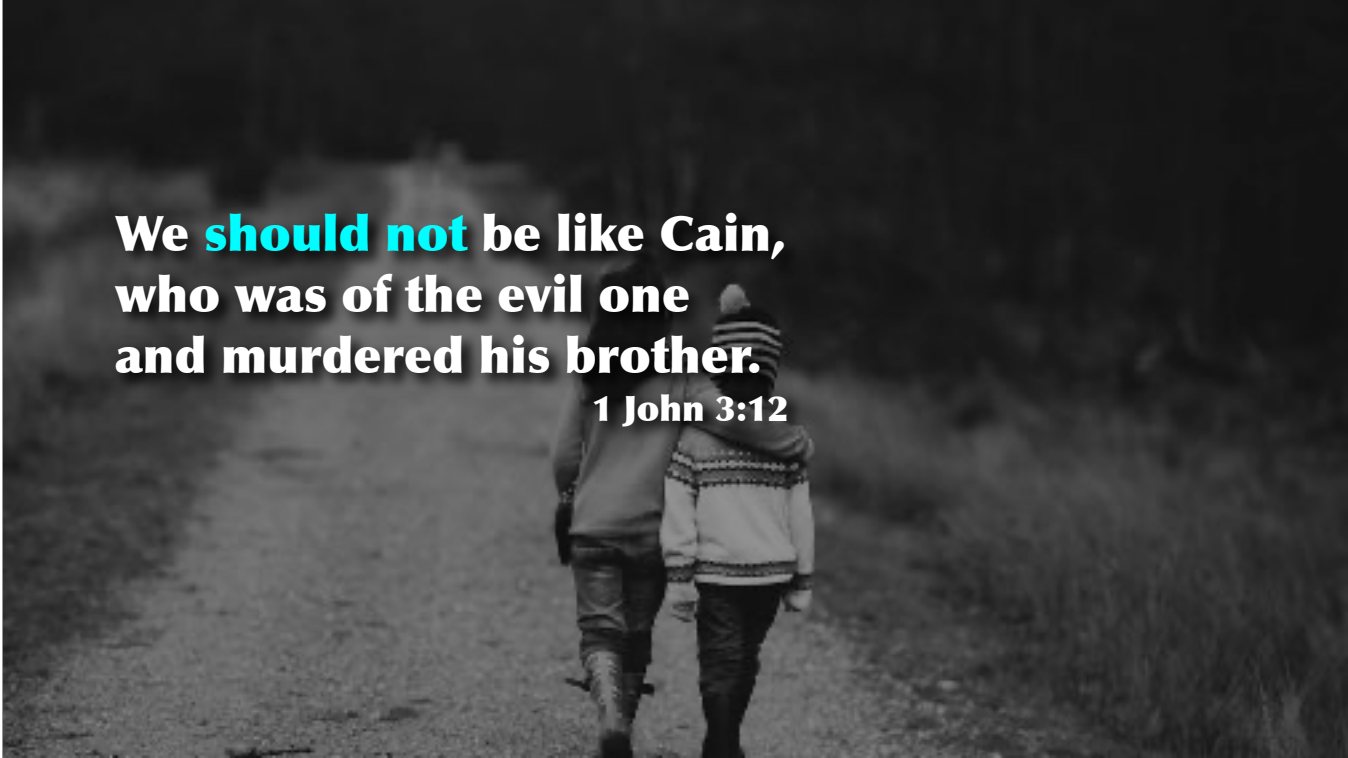
- 1 John 3:1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.
- 1 John 4:9-11 (ESV) 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.



- 1 John 3:11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.



- 1 John 3:12: We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.
- Cain should have loved his brother.
 - This was always God's intention
 - What happened in the sacrifices had nothing to do with Abel



We **should not be like Cain,
who was of the evil one
and murdered his brother.**

1 John 3:12

- Why murder?
 - Instead of being like God, he chose to be like Satan (not possessed, a choice)
 - His deeds were evil, His brother's were righteous
 - Cain failed in his faith, in being like God, and in his deeds
 - Unable to stand comparison: envy, jealousy, hatred, murder
- Don't be like Cain
 - Be like God ... we should love one another.



- 16: By this we know love
 - While Cain provides the example that is not love
 - Whatever feelings or affection Cain had for his brother: his deeds showed that he did not love Abel
 - In Jesus we have the proper example: by thinking of Jesus, we know love



- 1 John 3:14 — We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.
 - The world will hate us (don't be surprised!)
 - The world thinks and works differently ... like Cain.
 - Remember “the world” is not talking about people other than saints... it's a thought system introduced by the serpent.



- The world is not about love
 - Noah's time: every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually (Genesis 6:5)
 - This is evil and death
- Being born again means that we've stopped thinking like the world and we start thinking like God
 - Death to Life — Cain
 - 1 John 3:15 — Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.



- 1 John 3:16 By this we know love,
 - that he laid down his life for us
- What do you see when you look to the cross of Jesus?
 - Torture and Suffering
 - Doing his father's will
 - Forgiveness
 - Care for mother
 - LOVE



- When I Survey The Wondrous Cross, Isaac Watts
- 3rd verse
 - See, from his head, his hands, his feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down; Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown
- 4th verse
 - Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.



- 1 John 3:16 By this we know love,
 - we OUGHT to lay down our lives for the brothers
 - Amplification of vs. 14?
- From “should” to “ought”
- Jesus provides the example:
 - Opposite of Cain, who took his brother’s life
 - Jesus gave his life
 - And I must do the same for brothers
 - But this example only applies to most extreme situations (some have and do face these)
 - How do I show my love daily? practically?



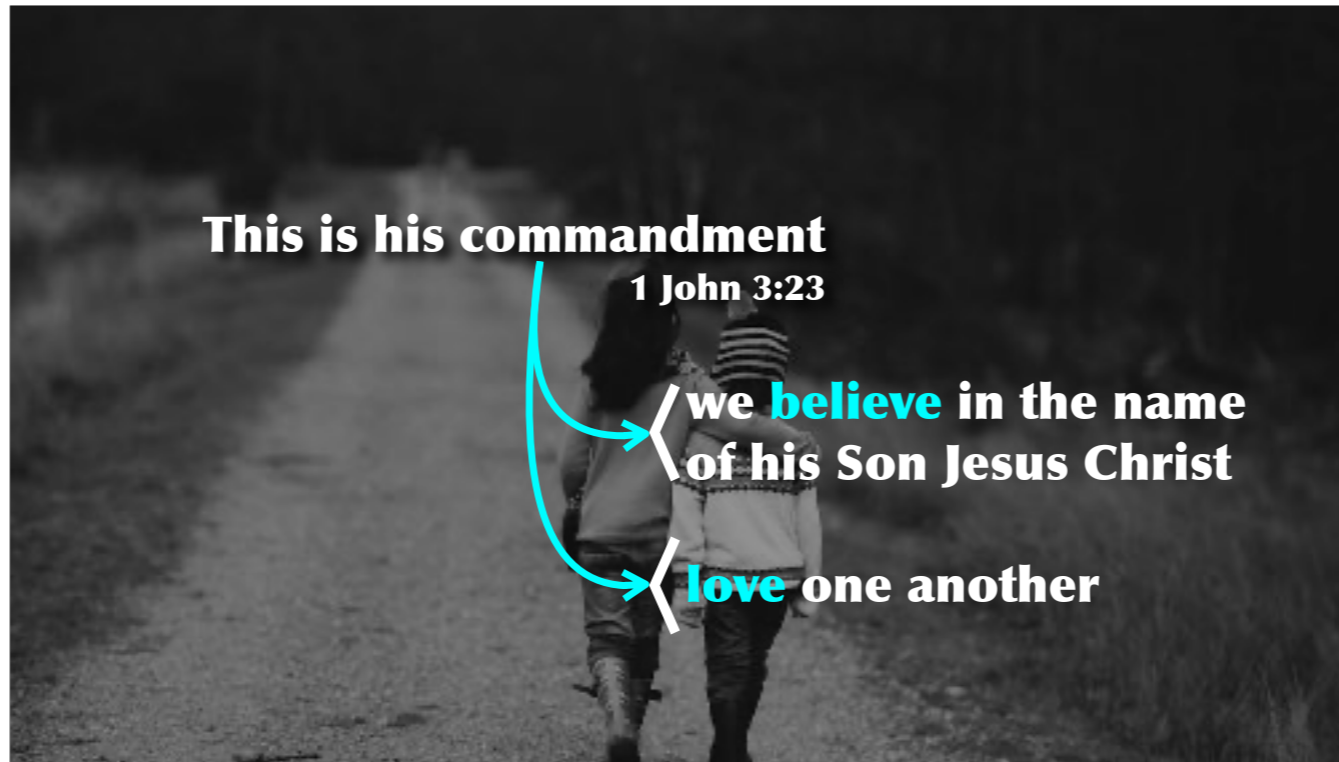
- 1 John 3:17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?
 - John turns us back to the contrast seen with Cain; yet is also practical



- Two disciples
 - One who is in need
 - One who has plenty, but a closed heart
 - He doesn't help the brother in need
 - note that rationale is not under consideration
 - only question is whether love was shown or not by action
- Key in on the closed heart as opposed to an open heart



- Is my heart open to my brothers or is my heart closed?
 - A closed heart means that we are like Cain, like the Evil One
 - Let's consider what that means more "practically"
 - Cain murdered his brother
 - In this verse, one doesn't provide help for a brother in need
 - Same underlying attitude as Cain?
 - More mundane: words vs. deeds
 - An open heart, that we are like our Father
 - "how does God's love abide in him?"



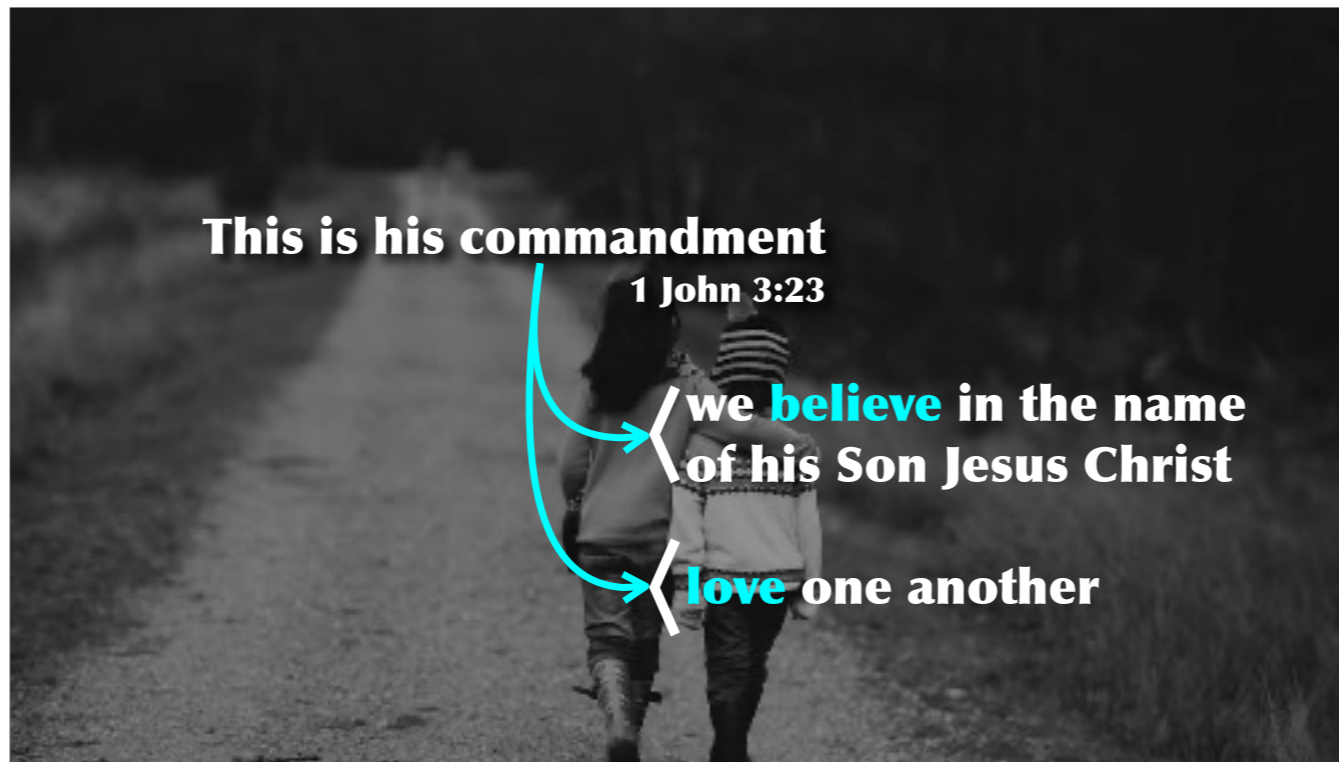
- 1 John 3:23-24 (ESV) 23 And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. 24 Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.



- Does this mean that loving one another is just as important as believing in Jesus?
 - “Should”, “Ought”, Commanded (3X)
 - None of us have a problem emphasizing the importance of believing in Jesus being necessary for salvation.
 - Yet loving each other is often neglected, or set aside as being of less importance than loving each other.



- This is especially true when we begin struggling with doctrinal issues
 - Like the church in Corinth
 - Like Cain ... worship led to hatred led to murder



- We see it still in those who claim to follow God, yet murder, judge, condemn, exalt themselves
 - Crusades, inquisitions, holy wars
 - Many of us have emphasized that the primary (almost only) measure of our faith concerns what we believe and practice: specific issues
 - Now divisions, strife, rivalries, dissensions, jealousy
- Not a competition or one or the other: BOTH — Believe and Love



- Love one another
 - should
 - know
 - ought
 - commanded

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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One Another

#05

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Synopsis: John reminds us that loving one another is not an option for those who are in Christ. Either we love one another, as Jesus loved us; or we are like Cain and Satan. We should love one another, we can know if we are loving one another, we ought to love one another and he commands us to love one another.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”