

WHAT IS LOVE?

1 John 3:11-18

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1. 3:11 Yes, we need to love our enemies. Yes, we need to love our neighbors. But the context of this letter is about loving other Christians.
2. *Genesis 4:6* Cain did not want to do it God's way. He had his own opinion on what an acceptable offering was, and he did not care what God wanted.
3. 3:12 John held Cain up as the prototype of who not to be.
4. 3:12 Cain was the first recorded person to reject love and cling to hatred. And that hatred blossomed into murder.
5. 3:12 John described Cain as being of the evil one because he followed Satan's actions.
6. 3:12 The epitome of hatred is to take a life, unjustly.
7. 3:14 Love should be the mark of the Christian, but it is not what grants us salvation. Salvation comes from faith alone.
8. 3:14-15 We should be able to look back on our lives and see where our love has grown, where our obedience to God has grown.
9. 3:15 Hatred is the spiritual equivalent of murder. It is the same heart issue.
10. 3:16 What is love? It is a sacrifice of self.
11. 3:16 God is a holy God and cannot let sin go unpunished. A price is owed, and a price must be paid (Romans 5:6-9).
12. 3:16 We ought to love each other not because we feel guilty into it, and not just because we know we should. We ought to love because of what Jesus did for us.
13. 3:17-18 The deliberate, thought-out action of closing your heart against your brother is wrong. If we do that then we are not following God.

