

Love and Hate 1 John 3:10-18

Introduction

John says that the differences between the child of the devil and the child of God are obvious. He stated that a person who practices sin (who does not practice righteousness) is of the devil. John was talking here about the conduct of such person...his/her daily conduct and attitude. Furthermore, a child of God does not sin and cannot sin which is to say that the child of God cannot sin continually. Again John makes the argument in black and white with no middle ground—you are either of God or of the devil. Finally, in **verse 10**, he concludes that a person who does not love does not have God.

Francis Schaeffer wrote that the chief identifying mark of a Christian is their love for others. This is because when God has changed the person, He teaches us to love as Paul says in **1 Thessalonians 4:9**, which Paul further says that he didn't need to write to them about it. John further states that in **3:11** that "this was the message they have heard from the beginning," that is to love one another. This was the new commandment from Jesus on the night at the Upper Room, as He commanded them to love one another (**John 13:34**). John said that this commandment was actually an old one (**2:7**), which was in the OT (love your neighbor as yourself and care for the aliens and widows), but His commandment is new in a sense that He Himself was the example of love (**John 13:35**). Throughout Scripture (especially in the NT) there is an imperative to love one another. Peter says to love one another fervently (**1 Peter 1:22**), or love as far as you can stretch; Paul urges us to increase our love more and more (**1 Thessalonians 4:10**); and John tells us that if we are saved, then we will love one another throughout his letters.

Typical in his letter, John goes into another spiral, going deeper into the issue, and he presents the test of love the second time by offering the contrast between the example of Cain and the example of Christ. With the examples, he highlights the contrast of the hatred of unbelievers and the love of Christians.

I. The Hatred of Unbelievers (12-13, 15, 17)

- Example of Cain (12)

Genesis 4:1-8 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord." **2** Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. **3** And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. **4** Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, **5** but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. **6** So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? **7** If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." **8** Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

Note: Cain and Abel both believed in God and offered sacrifices to God. However, Abel's sacrifice was preferred because Abel performed in faith (**Heb 11:4**) and Cain's rejected. In rage, Cain murdered his brother—not in passion, but in cold-blooded plan.

Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings.

- Why did Cain murder his brother?

Note: His actions were evil and his brother's righteous. This is a very harrowing phrase where it speaks of the enormity and wickedness of Cain's actions. Cain murdered his brother not because his brother was doing anything wrong, but because Cain was jealous that Abel's sacrifice was accepted by God. John said that Cain was of the evil one.

John 8:44 *You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning.*

Note: In the same vein, the Pharisees hated Christ because He was righteous and was a threat to their evil schemes. Their nature was the same as the devil's.

Transition: If Cain embodies the world, and he hated his brother; therefore don't be surprised the world will hate you.

- Hatred (13, 15)
 - Hating the righteous (13)

Proverbs 29:10 *Bloodthirsty men hate a man of integrity and seek to kill the upright.*

John 15:18-20 *"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. 20 Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.*

17:14 *I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*

Note: Jesus warned us of the hatred of the world, and it is always directed at Him, the Righteous One. They also hate the truth of Christ that we preach, teach, and live. John said that Cain was of the evil one. Cain was of the same nature as of the devil—hating all righteousness.

- Hatred is from the heart (15)

Note 1: John is not saying here that murderers cannot be saved; after all, David and Paul were murderers who were saved or became saved. Christians can and do commit murder.

Mark 7:20-23 *And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. 21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within and defile a man."*

Matthew 5:21-22 *"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.*

Galatians 5:21 *envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

Revelation 21:8 *But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."*

Note 2: Jesus said that murder and hatred has the same kind of attitude—namely, wanting a person not to live or exist. Murder happens because of hatred to another person and is carrying out the act. The unbeliever has the murderous, hating heart continually. John says that this person has no hope.

- Selfishness (12, 17)
 - Taking away life (12)

Note: This is the ultimate selfishness, the greatest sin a person can commit—taking away someone's life because someone irritated you. The world glorifies murder and selfishness, and it is evident in Hollywood where vengeance is graphically portrayed because of someone got hurt. Cain was slighted by God's acceptance of Abel's sacrifice. Instead of changing his attitude through repentance and asking God for the correct heart, he murdered his brother.

- Indifference to needs (17)

James 2:14-17 *What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? 15 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

Note: People give to charities all the time, but they give because of their own pride and vanity. You do not read of wealthy persons giving all or most of their money or possessions to the poor (as what the rich young ruler demonstrated when Jesus told him to sell everything he had and give to the poor and follow Him).

Transition: John tells us not to be like Cain. In **verse 14**, John says that we have passed from death to life. We were once dead in sins but made alive in Christ.

II. The Love of Christians (16-17)

- Example of Christ (16)
 - His love for us

Romans 5:8 *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

1 John 4:10 *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

Note: We cannot talk about His love without talking about the cross. It is through the cross that He gave us eternal life and abundant life.

- His humanity/humility

Philippians 2:5-8 *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!*

John 13:4-5 *so He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. 5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him.*

Mark 10:45 *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.*

Note: As with the righteousness test (as Christ demonstrated His perfect obedience), Christ also demonstrated perfect love for us by dying for us. Contrast this with Cain, who an evil man, killed a righteous person; whereby, Christ, the Righteous One, died for the ungodly. His death for us is the greatest expression of love (**John 15:13**).

Transition: John points out that the chief act of Christ is His self-sacrifice, “He gave His life for us.”

- Self-Sacrifice (**16b-17**)

Note: John says that we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. This is the self-sacrifice that Jesus had done and that we ought to live by His example. What does it mean? In its purest form, it simply means to die for others. However, we do not often die for others, so John makes it a more mundane observation—if anyone is in need, we ought to show love...have compassion.

James 2:14-17 *What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? 15 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

Matthew 25:34-40 *"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'*

Ephesians 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.*

James 1:27 *Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.*

Note: For John (and other NT writers) self-sacrifice did not always involve death, but to the giving up of self for others. It is always the consideration of others that so identifies the Christian love—helping those in need. **James 1:27**—love and righteousness intermingled!

Conclusion

John says that we should not love only with words, but with our actions, so that they can see our love. Jesus commands us to love one another, let us do so with increasing, fervent love.