

THE BELIEVER'S BADGE OF IDENTITY

Love That Proves We Belong to God

INTRODUCTION

A. The theme of 1 John: identifying marks of true Christians.

- John gives "behavioral tests" that reveal who is truly in God's family.

"Nor the one who does not love his brother."

(1 John 3:10-11)



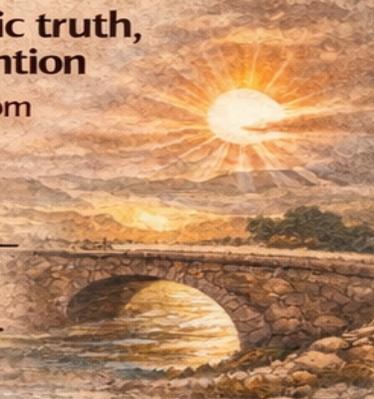
A WARNING FOR THE CHURCH: "GO BACK TO THE BEGINNING"

1 John 3:11

A. Love is apostolic truth, not a new invention

- "You have heard from the beginning..."
- John contrasts two spiritual families—children of the devil, and children of God.

1 John 3:11



FAMILY RESEMBLANCE OF THE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL:

1 John 3:12-15

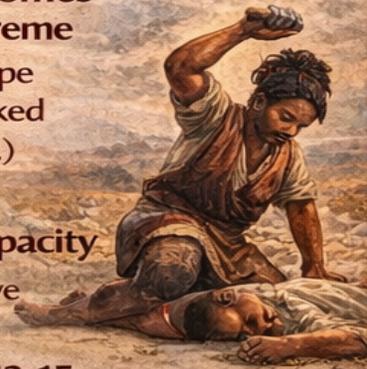
A. Love absent becomes murder in its extreme

- Cain is the prototype of religious yet wicked and hate-filled (v. 12)

B. Love is both command and capacity

- God commands love
- God supplies love.

1 John 3:12-15



LOVE ABSENT MAY HIDE BEHIND INDIFFERENCE

1 John 3:17

Indifference closes the heart of the unregenerate (v. 17)

- "Has the world's goods... sees his brother in need... closes his heart..."

1 John 3:14, 16, 18



FAMILY RESEMBLANCE OF THE CHILDREN OF GOD: LOVE PRESENT

1 John 3:14, 16, 18

A. Love is evidence of spiritual transfer

- Real believers love because of new, eternal life in Christ (v. 14)

1 John 3:14, 16, 18



HOW LOVE MARKS GOD'S FAMILY

1 John 3:11-18

Christian Love...

- Is commanded by Christ
- Originates with God
- Demonstrates sacrifice.

Like Jesus laid down His life for us, true believers lay down their lives for one-another.

