

# 1 John

## Chapter 3, part 2

### I. Introduction

- a. John continued his teaching concerning the truth that works follow the children of God
  - i. Today's lesson continues the thought but returns to the subject of love
    1. This lesson will be challenging to you as it thinks outside the box that we have drawn in modern day Christianity

### II. Commentary

#### a. **Verses 10-12**

- i. The children of God and the children of the devil are generally easy to recognize
  1. "*manifest*" means something similar to "obvious"
  2. Those that practice righteousness are saved
    - a. That is, their life is characterized by a desire to serve the Lord
      - i. Is this you?
  3. Those that do not practice righteousness are not saved
  4. Those that do not love the ones they proclaim to be "brethren" with are not saved
    - a. If you do not have love for the people of God in your heart, you are lost
- ii. Since "*the beginning*", love for the brethren has been part of our instruction
  1. Jesus commonly taught on the importance of our loving one another (**John 13:34-35**)
  2. This love is the opposite of Cain
    - a. Remember, Cain appeared to have some desire to serve the Lord
      - i. However, it was obvious that he did not when he murdered his brother
        1. He hated his brother because Abel's righteousness condemned his own rebellion

#### b. **Verses 13-15**

- i. We shouldn't be surprised if the world hates us
  1. This began with Cain's hatred of Abel
  2. Jesus warned us that the world would hate us just as it hated Him (**John 15:18-25**)
- ii. Our love for the brethren is proof "*that we have passed from death to life*"
  1. You should ask yourself if you love the brethren
    - a. Who do you think your love should be stronger for after the Lord?
- iii. The one that does not love the one he claims is his brother (other believers) is still spiritually dead
  1. Hated equates to murder and murderers will not inherit eternal life

**c. Verses 16-17**

- i. These verses concern the actions that prove our love for our brethren
  - 1. Love is not just a feeling
    - a. Love produces actions
- ii. Jesus proved His love for us by laying down His life for ours
  - 1. This is the very example that we ought to follow if we love our brothers and sisters in Christ
- iii. Able believers ought to help believers they see in need
  - 1. If you have plenty and you see a brother or sister in need, you are supposed to help them – period
    - a. This is not optional
    - b. If you do not, it shows that you love your possessions more than your brethren
      - i. Modern Christianity has gotten away from this but it doesn't change the truth
  - 2. This isn't speaking to the church as a corporate body
    - a. I'm not suggesting that the church cannot and should not help those in need
      - i. She should
    - b. This passage here is simply speaking to individuals with plenty and instructing them to help their brothers and sisters in need

**d. Verses 18-23**

- i. Talk about love is cheap and proves nothing
  - 1. True love produces actions
- ii. Love which produces actions will prove our salvation is real
  - 1. Works do not bring salvation – they are the proof of salvation
- iii. If our heart condemns us, it is because we are not doing what we ought to do
  - 1. If we have plenty and do not help our brothers and sisters (especially after hearing this instruction), the Holy Spirit will convict us
    - a. Nevertheless, God knows we are saved because His Spirit abides in us
- iv. If our conscience is clear concerning our love for our brethren, this is assurance of salvation
- v. If we are abiding in the Lord, we will receive all we ask for
  - 1. This is obviously true since we are following the leadership of the Spirit if we are abiding in Him
- vi. God's command to mankind is that we all believe in His Son
  - 1. If we do, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit
    - a. The Holy Spirit leads us to love