

**FOR THE BROTHERS:  
A STUDY IN THE EPISTLES OF JAMES, JOHN, JUDE  
AMEN BIBLE STUDY 2016-2017**

**John: Love that Matters I John 3:11-18  
February 16, 2017**

**I. Brotherly love is an indispensable feature in the family of God.** (vv.11-13)

A. The way of love has been established from the beginning.

<sup>11</sup> *For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.*  
cf. Acts 11, Ephesians 2:13-16; 4:1

B. The family of God can expect hostility from the world.

1. The origin of hate: the Devil

<sup>12</sup> *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.*  
cf. Genesis 4:4; John 8:44; I John 3:8

2. The object of hate: Christians

<sup>13</sup> *Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.* cf. Hebrews 11:4

3. The reason of hate: Christ in us cf. John 15:18-20

Take away: To the degree we follow Christ, those of the world will hate us for it.

**II. Family consciousness fuels our brotherly love for each other.** (vv.14-15)

A. The Christian life is not mechanical, it is organic. cf. Ephesians 2:8-10

B. We are called to live out who we have been redeemed to be. cf. Eph 4:17-20, 31-32

1. We have been delivered out of darkness and death.

<sup>14</sup> *...Whoever does not love abides in death.* <sup>15</sup> *Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.* cf. I John 2: 9, 11; Jn 13:21-30

2. We have been transferred into light and life.

<sup>14</sup> *We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers...*

Take away: The inverse of love is hate.

**III. True brotherly love is defined by Christ.** (vv. 16-18)

A. Christ is the model for love.

<sup>16</sup> *By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us,...* cf. Phil 2:5-11; Eph 5:25

B. Our love must be:

1. For the other

*... and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.* cf. Galatians 3:28

2. Action oriented:

a. We need to know the needs of others.

<sup>17</sup> *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?*

b. Put yourself in position to meet their needs.

<sup>18</sup> *Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*

**AMEN Discussion Questions – I John 3:11-18**  
**February 16, 2017**

1. In calling us to a life of love, John first gives an example of hate that helps us understand love and calls us to self-examination. What does this passage tell us about hate?
  
2. How has our culture warped our understanding of love? In what practical ways does that play out in our life together as brothers?
  
3. Using John's words in verses 16-18, how would you define love? How can Christ's example help you to love difficult people?
  
4. C.S. Lewis wrote: *It is easier to be enthusiastic about Humanity with a capital H, than it is to love individual men and women, especially those who are uninteresting, depraved, or otherwise unattractive. Loving everybody in general may be an excuse for loving nobody in particular.* What obstacles do we commonly encounter when we seek to love others? What keeps us from loving others in practical ways?

**Going Deeper**

1. Many scholars tell us that John, as well as other NT writers, indicate there is no middle ground between love and hate. Do you agree? If not, why?
  
2. Think of three people you find hard to love. What steps can you take to love them better?