



Our hope is that you were challenged by Sunday's message and would desire to take the study a little deeper. Whether for personal study, family study, or for a Home Group gathering, use this study to go deeper.

Open

February 4, 2018

John's first letter is far more encouraging than many Christians have been led to believe. The repeated label "little children," the invitations of intimate abiding with the Father and Son, and the assurances of sins forgiven and fellowship restored are all evidence of the joyful tone of the book. Now John wants to provide even more freedom, joy, and confidence to his audience. A relationship with the Father is most importantly displayed in love for one another. In the second half of 1 John, he addresses this. It is THE visible contrast of believers and the world in which we temporarily dwell. The lack of observable, divinely inspired, counter-cultural love of one another forces a difficult question...can you really be counted among His children? The God of love raises children who are loving. This is an expectation that is non-negotiable and a result that is inevitable.

Main Point

Loving one another is proof of a righteous son or daughter. Through an active love, the heart enjoys full assurance of belonging.

Read

1 John 3:11-24; Genesis 4:1-8, 14; Matthew 22:34-41;
Romans 8:1

Discuss

- John identifies (3:11) the command to love one another as having been "heard from the beginning." What are implications of that?
- What are some reasons John began with Cain as an example in this section?
- If Cain is a negative model of sibling treatment, who is the positive model? (Your answer will significantly affect your understanding of this passage!)
- Any condemnation is devastating, from outside or within. This passage describes a state of no condemnation. How are we reassured of this state of freedom and confidence? What is the fruit of that confidence?
- Fulfilling the command to love one another is THE evidence of an abiding disciple and a righteous son or daughter. The highest confirmation is the presence of the Spirit in our lives. How are the Holy Spirit and abiding related?



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Sermon Notes



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