

## Love One Another

*1 John 3:11-24*

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11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 12 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. 13 Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. 15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 17 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? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

19 By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; 20 for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; 22 and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. 24 Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

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### **Introduction**

How can a person know that they are a child of God?

1 John 3:11-24 helps us answer this question by considering the relationship between the command to love one another and our confidence before God.

### **Exposition**

#### **I. Love not Hate (Vss. 11-15)**

As God in Christ has loved us, we also ought to love another. God's love becomes the example for our love.

**T.S. – So what does this love look like? How can I know if I am actually loving others?**

#### **II. Deeds not Words (Vss. 16-18)**

Just as God demonstrated His love for us by sending Christ to die in our place to bring us to Him, so we also should demonstrate our love for others through sacrificial actions.

**T.S. - So what about our initial question? How can a person know that they are a child of God? That they are a Christian?**

### **Conclusion** (Vss. 19-24)

Simply put, we can have assurance of our salvation, we can have confidence before God that we are one of His children, we can be certain that He hears our prayers, when, as verse 23 says, "we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another." In other word, the fruit of saving faith is love for others.