

I John 3:11-18
Contrasting Love and Hate

One of the greatest methods of reaching the lost with the gospel is not the external jewelry we wear or the pins on our lapels or even the distribution of tracts. It is, as Jesus taught his disciples before going to the awful cross of death, "That you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:33-35) Francis Schaeffer, the Christian apologist writes in his book, "The Mark of the Christian," "Through the centuries men have displayed many different symbols to show that they are Christians. They have worn marks in the lapels of their coats, hung chains about their necks, even special haircuts...But there is a much better sign- a mark that has not been thought up just as a matter of expediency for use on some special occasion or in some specific era. It is universal mark that is to last through all ages of the church till Jesus comes back. As Jesus said, "That you love one another as I have loved you."

I. Cain's Hatred – v.12-13

A. The Social Test – John 13:34

B. Cain belonged to the Devil – John 8:44

1. Why Christians are hated by the world – John 15:18-19
2. Why Cain killed Abel (Act 2:23; Matt.5:21-22; 7:21-23)

C. Abel's and Cain's offering to the Lord – Gen. 4:3-5

1. Abel brought an acceptable blood sacrifice to the Lord
2. Cain brought an unacceptable fruit basket to the Lord

II. Christian Love – v.14-18

A. Is full of life – John 10:10; 27-28

B. Is evidence of the new birth – 14a; II Cor. 5:17

C. Holds membership in God's family – 14b.

1. Abandonment is the opposite of love – (Rom. 7:2-3; I Cor. 7:12-15)
2. Absence of love is the status of death – 14b

D. Christian love is self-sacrificing – v.16

1. Love cannot be analyzed apart from the death of the cross – John 3:16; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 5:8; Turn To: I John 4:10
2. What primary matter do we see in the character of Christ's death? Ans. Self-Sacrifice, Jesus died for the undeserved.
3. The difference between eros love and agape love
4. Love overflows – "We ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" Matt.16:24

E. Christianity has a practical mode – v.17,18

1. Be involved in the interest of your fellow- believer –
Turn To: Phil. 2:1-5
2. The Christian Home
3. Love in deed and truth

3/6/2011