

1 JOHN 3:11-24 (NASB)

¹¹ For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; ¹² not as Cain, *who* was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

¹³ Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who 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 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. ¹⁷ But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. ¹⁹ We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him ²⁰ in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things. 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 the things that are pleasing in His sight.

²³ This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. ²⁴ The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

REVIEW

The Christian life is filled with many voices that try to pull us away from the heart of God. We have voices within and around us. We have "the world" – the prevailing culture of our world – that woos us away from healthy trust in our Father to doubt his love and the love of our neighbor. John writes to convince God's people that we have a reason to confidently hope in God and stand upon his Word.

STUDY IT

- Who was Cain? What likely motivated Cain to do what he did? (v.11; See Genesis 4)
- Why should we not be surprised by the world's hatred of us? (v.13)
- How do we "abide" in death? (v.14)
- How do we "abide" in life? (v.15)
- What is the definition and example of love for God's people? (v.16)
- What does it mean to love "in deed and truth"? (v.18)
- How can someone's heart attempt to condemn us? (v.19-20)
- How does v.23 align us with our God-given purpose?
- How do we abide in God? How does He abide in/with us? (v.23-24)

APPLY IT

- When have you experienced feelings of hatred toward someone?
- Did God bring resolution to those feelings? How so?
- Do you agree with the definition of love in v.16? When have you known this kind of love?
- How do you love "in deed and truth"?
- Do you live fully and freely in confidence before God? Why/why not? (Read vs. 21-23 several times as God's promise over you.)
- How would you ask the Holy Spirit to help you abide in God today?