

Week 7 Study Guide - 1st John 3:11-22

Scripture

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.

Questions

We are called to love our brothers and sisters. A perfect example of how not to love your brother is the story of Cain and Abel. How would it have looked like for Cain to love Abel? Can you think of someone in your life that you have a hard time loving? How would you treat that person if you did love them?

You would think if we did a great job at loving everybody then the world would love us. Why do you think some people in the world do not love us even when we love them?

According to verse 16 where do we get the motivation to love from?

Pastor Steve talked about the difference between Justification and Sanctification. Justification is how we are saved. We are justified by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus alone.

Sanctification is the process by which we become more like Jesus. God changes us over a period of time. What is the number one sign that we have been saved? (The number one sign does not mean that we are saved by this, but because we have been saved we do this)

Verse 20 talks about God being greater than any condemnation we might feel. What condemnation do you feel? Do you believe that God is greater than that condemnation?

Think - The number one sign that we are followers of Jesus is that we love people around us. Think of your own life, would other people say you do a good job at loving those around you?

Pray - You can love someone by praying for them. Think of three people and pray for them 5 times this week.

Do - Find 3 ways this week to love people that you do not normally do throughout your day. Try for at least one of those people to be someone that you find hard to love.