**3:9-3:18**

Stark contrast (Cain / Abel)

Strong language (hate & murder)

Love evidenced (deed)

The verses of this section outline as follows:

1. Two paternities: Divine or devilish (3:9–10)
2. Two options: Love or hate (3:11–12)
3. Two paths: Life or death (3:13–18)
4. Love’s practicality (3:17–18)
5. **Two paternities**: Divine or devilish (3:9–10)

Source we operate from: God’s or devil’s

John is confident that God’s true children, like those of the devil, ultimately cannot conceal their identity. The nature of their inner identity will be “evident”

Yarbrough, Robert W.. 1-3 John (Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament) (p. 196). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

John’s eventual point is not to demonize outsiders but to galvanize the faithful toward consistent expression of love for each other.

Yarbrough, Robert W.. 1-3 John (Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament) (p. 193). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

1. **Two options**: Love or hate (3:11–12)

**3:11**

“**For this is the message**”

2nd message in this epistle: **love one another**

1st message was, **God is light** (1:5)

Bridge: love one another to God is love (4:8) is to recognize the source.

“**which you have heard from the beginning,**”

**heard**

9x – 1:1, 1:3, 1:5, 2:7, 2:18, 2:24, 3:11, 4:3

**beginning**

**8x – 1.1, 2.7, 2.13, 2.14 (2x), 2.24, 3.8, 3.11**

**Know – 40x+**

**Love one another** – 2:9, 2:10, 2:11, 3:10, 3:11, 3:14, 3:16, 3:23, 4:7, 4:11, 4:21

**Why does John keep repeating?**

**2 Peter 1:12-13 – 12**Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. **13**I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder,

“The business of the church and of preaching is not to present us with new and interesting ideas, it is rather to go on reminding us of certain fundamental and eternal truths.”

David Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Welsh Protestant minister, preacher and medical doctor who was influential in the Reformed wing of evangelicalism in the 20th century. For almost 30 years, he was the minister of Westminster Chapel in London.

**What they (we) “know****” – Jesus came:**

**1:2 – in human form**

**1:3 – so we could have fellowship**

**1:7 – as an example for us**

**2:2 – as the propitiation for our sins**

3:5 – to take away sins

3:8 – to destroy the works of the devil

“**that we should love one another**”

What does **love one another** look like?

John 13:34-35 - “**Love one another** as I have loved you.” sacrificial: washed their feet!

**3:12**

“**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**.”

Brothers of the same family, humanly.

Different families spiritually

Actions (practicing, keeping, walking) always arise out of their source, (either the sin nature or the divine nature, from Satan or from God)

Cain’s actions were not from God.

1. **Two paths: Life or death** (3:13–18)

**3:13**

“**Do not be surprised, brethren**”

Imperative #7 in our list of 10

Do not be caught off-guard

“**if the world hates you**.”

John 15: 18-19, 25 – **18**“**If the world hates you**, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you. **19**If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this **the world hates you**.

Jesus finishes with:

**25**But *they have done this* to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, ‘They hated Me without a cause.’

Jesus quoted from their own writings!

References

Psalm 35:19 – **19**Do not let those who are wrongfully my enemies rejoice over me; Nor let those who hate me without cause wink maliciously.

Psalm 69:4a – 4 Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head; being wrongfully my enemies; What I did not steal, I then have to restore. They hated me without a cause, don’t be surprised if they also hate you without cause.

**Charles Spurgeon – Hatred Without Cause**

**3:14**

“**We know that we have passed out of death into life,**”

**We know that**

statement of fact

**Why does John say they already know?**

Previously established John’s audience is familiar with his teaching.

John 5:24 (NIV) -24“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

**we have passed**:

* denotes change of place, to pass from one place to another

**passed out of death into life**

* “**permanently”** at one point, with the results continuing on [perfect tense]
* Christian **transitions** from death to life at the point of salvation.

Greek: radical and permanent change.

like a change of address

to a permanent state of eternal **life**.

**Eternal life** 1:1, 1:2, 2:25, 3:14, 3:15, 3:18, 4:13, 4:16, 5:11, 5:12, 5:13, 5:20

“**because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death** “

**Love**

Agape – self sacrificial love

**Love one another** – 3:23 commandments

**What does it really mean?**

John 13:5 - **5**Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

Loving other Christians is a mark of a Christian and evidence of eternal life.

**3:15**

“**Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer**“

2:9 & 2:11 – not loving one another is **hatred**.

John now expounds on this even more.

**Hatred** is the mental equivalent of murder

“**and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him**.”

We know intuitively that “murder”:

* is incompatible with eternal life in Christ
* is wrong as a generally accepted principle,

It follows then, so is “**hatred**” as well.

The argument here is:

* The **nature** of a child of God does not murder, nor does it **hate**.
* God’s nature and quality are contrary to taking someone’s life or **hating** them.

Matt 5:21-22 - **21**“You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘You shall not commit murder’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’ **22**But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

**3:16**

“**We know love by this**”

**By this** [what I am about to state]

we have come to **know love**

“**that He laid down His life for us**; “

**laid down**

Sacrifice – the characteristic of Christ’s love.

**Love** was His motivation for coming

He demonstrated His love in sacrificing Himself for others.

We came to experience genuine love in the **greatest** act of love, the death of Jesus for our sins

And so…………

“**we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren**“

**ought**

under obligation*or*debt

idea of moral obligation vs logical necessity

**lay down**

Greek: to divest oneself of something.

Love **divests** itself of self and gives to others

**our lives for the brethren**

Sacrificial love in action

**End of class – 2/11/2024**