

1 John

Introduction

You have seen and experienced how much God loves you! He gave his Son to die for you. He has forgiven your sins. He has adopted you as his children. He continues to *lavish* you with his love!

Now we have the privilege of reflecting God's love in Jesus to those around us—not just to those who are related to us by blood, but to all our neighbors and especially to our brothers and sisters in God's family.

Love one another

Read 1 John 3:11-24. What is the outstanding characteristic of Christian faith in practice that John emphasizes throughout these verses?

The account of Cain and Abel is written in Genesis 4. What was the difference between these two brothers that made the sacrifice of one acceptable and the other unacceptable? (Verse 12, see **Hebrews 11:4**.)

In our culture today it seems that everything is to be tolerated—except Christian faith and values! Why are Christians so odious to the world? (See **John 15:18-21**.)

In his Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) Jesus equates hatred with murder. John echoes Jesus' teaching here. What is the dire consequence of hatred, rancor, grudges, and lack of forgiveness?

What phrase in verse 16 emphasizes Jesus' *willing* suffering and death for sinners?

What does it mean for you to "lay down your life" for your brothers?

List practical ways that you can show meaningful love to your fellow Christians:

In the practice of love, when might we find ourselves in a situation where "our hearts condemn us"?

Explain what it means that "God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything."

Summarize verses 21-24 by explaining the relationship between faith and love.

Read John 4:1-6. John tells us to "test the spirits." How do we do this?

Evaluate: Americans have a consumer mindset, even in matters of religion. What temptations might lead us to do other things than testing the spirits when it comes to joining a church?

What notable attribute characterizes the “spirit of the antichrist” that John references in verse 3? How does this fit with the context of John’s day and the specific heresies that he battled?

Who is “the one who is in you”?

For quick review: What does John mean by “the world” in these verses?

In verse 6 John asserts his authority as an apostle and an ambassador of the Lord Jesus Christ. On what basis can you assert a claim on the truth?

Two words to avoid when preaching, teaching, or discussing God’s truth: _____ 😞

Instead we should use the phrase: _____ 😊