

The Word of Love and Assurance



Abiding in Love

John uses his characteristic contrasts of love and hatred, life and death, confidence and uncertainty to anchor us to the power of love. Oh the love.....!

A. The Power of Hate 1 John 3:11-15

1. **The standard:** [:11] John establishes the base line command for all believers. We are to love one another.

2. **Love turns to hate:** Brotherly love was one of the first things challenged after creation when Cain murdered his brother Abel. *Gen 4:1-16*.

a. **What happened to Cain?** [*Gen 4:6-7*] God gave Cain a chance to deal with his anger by telling him he had to "...rule over it." He needed to repent and seek healing.

3. **The world is like Cain:** [:13] See also *John 16:33*

4. **Love or hate:** [:14-15]

a. **When love rules:** [:14] When love rules we know we have passed from death to life—both here and in eternity. However, when love does not rule—we abide in death.

b. **When hate rules:** [:15] In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus equates anger with murder *Matt 5:21-26*. Hatred kills relationships—even our relationship with Christ.

B. The Power of Love 1 John 3:16-18

1. **What is love?** [:16a] We can know real love by looking at the sacrificial life and death of the Messiah.

2. **How do we love?** [:16b-17] We follow the example of the Messiah—sacrificial sharing.

a. **Love in deed:** [:18] What I do—not what I say. See *Matt 25:35-36; James 1:25*

b. **Love in truth:** Here, "in truth" means 'real' as opposed to what is false. 'Doing' [deeds] are not enough if the doing is done out of false or wrong motives.

C. Power of Security 1 John 3:19-24

1. **Knowing love:** Notice that this section starts and ends with, "by this we know," vs :19 and :24. Godly love is intelligent love and seeks to gain understanding and discernment. See *Phil 1:9-11*

2. **Feeling condemned:** [:20] God is greater...

3. **Feeling confident:** [:21-22] Our confidence motivates us to obedience and God-centered prayer.

4. **Believing in something:** [:23] Everyone wants to believe in something. Here are two simple commands—something to believe in: The Name of Jesus and love for one another.

5. **Two sides of security:** By abiding in Him and keeping His commandments we live out our 'assurance' of faith. However, we are 'sealed' Holy Spirit who also assures us of our salvation by the finished work of Christ on the cross.

1 John 3:11-24 (NKJV)

:11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,

:12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his **works** were evil and his brother's righteous.

:13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

:14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

:15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

:17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

:18 My little children, let us not love in **word** or in **tongue**, but in **deed** and in **truth**.

:19 And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.

:20 For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.

:21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.

:22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

:23 And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

:24 Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.