

A Legacy of Love

1 John 3:11-18

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Cor. 13:13

“Love sums up the entire Christian life.”

Jonathan Edwards

1st John reaffirms the core of Christianity: Christians should exhibit sound doctrine, obedience, and love. John goes so far as to say, if you don't exhibit these things, you're not a Christian.

John reminds his readers:

- The gospel is _____. (1 John 3:11)
- We are to _____ one another instead of following the example of Cain, who _____ and _____ his brother. (1 John 3:12)
- Do not be _____ when the world _____ you. (1 John 3:13)
- Love provides _____ that we have _____. (1 John 3:14–15)
- Service to others may mean _____. (1 John 3:16)
- Service to others always involves _____. (1 John 3:17–18)

Conclusion

Hatred characterizes the world, whose prototype is Cain. It originates in the Devil, results in murder, and is evidence of spiritual death. Love characterizes the church, whose prototype is Christ. It originates in God, results in self-sacrifice, and is evidence of eternal life. (The Letters of John, 148) – John Stott

Will you leave a legacy of love?

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

John 13:34-35