

1John 3:11-22

John's purpose statement:

1 John 5:13: I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

Observation questions:

Key Idea #1 Satan's Children Murder God's Children

1 John 3:11-12

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.

What is the message you have heard from the beginning?

Read Genesis 3: 4-11

4 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord." ***2*** And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ***3*** In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, ***4*** and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, ***5*** but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ***6*** The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ***7*** If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

8 Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ***9*** Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" ***10*** And the Lord said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. ***11*** And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.

List the things you learn about each brother in this passage:

Cain

Abel

Key Idea # 2 - Satan's Children Hate God's Children

1 John 3:13-15

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.

Why does the world hate us? Who is the father of the world?

What does "passed out of death to life" mean?

Talk about what would lead you to believe that someone is not a believer, even if they say they are?

Key Idea # 3- Satan's Children are Indifferent to God's Children

1 John 16-18

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.

How do we know love, and how should we respond to our fellow believers knowing this?

What does it mean if we are habitually indifferent to other believers?

Write verse 18 in your own words:

Key Idea# 4- God's Children Show Gratitude for God's Grace

1 John 3:19-22

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.

Verse 19 starts with “By this”. How does “by this” help us to know that we are of the truth and belong to Him?

Who comforts us when our hearts are troubled?

What gives us confidence to stand before God?

When we pray to God, how will we know He will bless us? Why is this not “works”?

Do these verses assure you of your salvation? Why?

Teaching Notes:

Key Idea #1 Satan's Children Murder God's Children

1 John 3:11-12

Key Idea # 2 - Satan's Children Hate God's Children

1 John 3:13-15

Key Idea # 3- Satan's Children are Indifferent to God's Children

Key Idea# 4- God's Children Show Gratitude for God's Grace

1 John 3:19-22

Discussion Questions:

This study started out with talking about hate equaling murder. Since we are human, we may sin in this way. What should we do when we realize we have hate or anger in our hearts? What does Jesus say we should do? Look up Matthew 5:21-24

John makes the point that God's children should not be indifferent to brothers and sisters in need.

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.

How might that look practically? How are you striving to love your fellow believers? Is it easy or hard at this time in your life?

Does your prayer life reflect your gratitude to God?