



The Agape

Class 5 • 1st John 3 Part II

• 1st John 3

- 12) Not as Cain, *who* was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.
- 13) Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.
- 14) We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death.
- 15) Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.
- 16) Hereby perceive we the love of *God*, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.
- 17) But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of *compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?
- 18) My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.
- 19) And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.
- 20) For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.
- 21) Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, *then* have we confidence toward God.
- 22) And whatsoever we ask, we receive of 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) And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

- In the first half of chapter 3 we looked at the opposite of the seductive teachings of the Judaisers

- The manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God
- The Lord's sacrifice of himself - Paul's battle line against the Judaisers
- Paul had brought up a whole list of allusions to Genesis and it culminates in Verse 12
- Take a look at them:
 - a) deceived - Like Eve
 - b) He that committeth sin is of the Devil - Like Adam & Eve choosing sides
 - c) the devil sinneth from the beginning - The beginning of creation
 - d) The Son of God destroys the works of the devil - Heel and Head
 - e) his seed remaineth in him - Seed of the woman - not the serpent
 - f) He that loveth not his brother - Cain
 - g) In verse 12 - it goes even further about Cain
- In applying these verses to ourselves, we had to remember that Paul is using terms like "sinneth not" in the continual sense
- He is referring to a sinful way of life, not the occasional uncharacteristic lapse
- Then he gets to Cain...
- 12) Not as Cain, *who* was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.
- True believers don't live lives of sin
- True believers live lives that reflect their love for one another
- The example of Cain is an interesting one...
- Let's take a quick look at the story again:
- Genesis 4:3-5
 - 3) And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.
 - 4) And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:
 - 5) But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.
- Look carefully at verse 4...

- It says that he “also brought” of the firstlings of his flock... Which means that, like Cain, he would also have offered a “meal offering” of the fruit of the ground
- If his brother was a gardener, and he was a shepherd, then he would probably be offering the fruits his brother had given him
- They probably traded regularly - animals for fruit
- Did you notice that Abel brought the “firstlings” of his flock, why would he do that if he only needs to sacrifice one?
- I think that Abel brought one for his brother as well
- So, in a very real sense...
- Cain refuses to have fellowship with his Brother
- And then Cain withdraws himself from his Brother to start his own form of unacceptable service to God
- Now we start to learn what Paul means when he says, “*Because his own works were evil, and his brother’s righteous.*”
- Paul is demonstrating that separatism is “*evil*”, and fellowship at the Lord’s table is “*righteous*”

13) Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

- He heard this himself...

• John 15:18-19

18) If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you.

19) If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

- The Jews didn’t like being told that their religion was lacking, and they hated the Christians for it...
- If we give people the same message in this life, we won’t be liked either

14) We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death.

15) Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

- Again with a dual meaning of loving each other and remembering the Love Feast
- If you neglect the Lord's Memorial then you show indifference to the most fundamental of our spiritual responsibilities and you "abideth in death"

- Hatred is Murder

- Matthew 5:21-22

21) Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

22) But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

16) Hereby perceive we the love of *God*, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

- We understand how Jesus did this for us, but how can we do it for our brethren?

- None of us can give God a ransom for a Brother

- Not focusing on self, but focusing on others?

17) But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of *compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

- Another way to "lay down one's life"

18) My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

- Don't simply say it - Do it

19) And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

20) For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

21) Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, *then* have we confidence toward God.

- God is more merciful than our own concept of Him often allows

- God is more merciful than we think he is

- IF we DO think that, then we have confidence!

22) And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

- Again, I think that John is saying this in a limited capacity

- 1) No one keeps all of Christ's Commandments
- 2) If you did, then forgiveness wouldn't be necessary

- John is talking about Baptism and the Memorials

- And...

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.

- Believe is not continual here, but rather an individual act - Baptism

- Love one another is The Agape

24) And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

- John 15:10

- 10) If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

- They also had the sign of the Holy Spirit to assure them of a believer