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# KINGDOM FAMILY [PART 5]

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## *Real Love – 1 John 3:11-20*

### Background

**Division:** split – still hanging around and causing trouble. 1 John 2:19

**Deception:** need to have secret knowledge – adding to the gospel.

The greatest danger to the Christian Church is –

- + not persecution from outside
- + but perversion from inside – misinterpret and misconstrue truth – the Gnostics

John wrote John's Gospel "that you *may believe*". John 20:31 inward DNA.

John wrote 1 John "that you *may know*". 1 John 5:13

- + ... that we are in Him – 1 John 4:13
- + ... that we are of God – 1 John 5:19
- + ... that we have passed from death to life – 1 John 3:14

This is how you know you belong to the Kingdom family – a threefold test.

- + Theological – Jesus fully human and fully divine is the Saviour
- + Moral Test – Obedience – last week Pastor John – "*do not sin*"
- + Social Test – Love

There are only two kinds of families:

- + those belonging to God - "*children of God*" or
- + those belonging to the Devil - "*children of the devil*"

*This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister. 1 John 3:10*

- + Divine likeness – Love
- + Devilish likeness – Hatred

Real love is the purest test to spot those belonging to the family.

*For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. 1 John 3:11*

## What is Love?

Love is not as John Stott puts it "*a delicately vague feeling*" . . .

- + Written
- + Obey

## Love is Not . . .

*Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. . . . Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates his brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.*

1 John 3:12-15

Cain is the Model of Hatred (v12)

The world follows Cain.

*We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other . . .*

Love is the evidence.

- + Love is the Sign that you are part of the Kingdom family.

Love does not make you a Christian – belief in Jesus does.

1 John 4:7 – God is Love

**Love is . . .**

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:16-18*

Jesus is the Model of Love

- + Jesus gives life - v16. Cain takes life.

Love is something solid not a vague feeling or empty words - v17.

- + Particular need
- + Particular person

Mother Theresa – start with one – start with the one closest to you.

Chinese saying – a long journey begins with one step in front of you.

Grace is given to do the one you see.

*If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:17-18*

## Set Our Hearts at Rest

*This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 1 John 3:19-20*

John Stott says, ". . . however firmly grounded the Christian's assurance is, his heart may need reassurance."

We have a big heart – see big needs:

- + condemnation comes from "flesh" – should have done more or
- + the "devil" should have done more

Practical ways to set your heart at rest:

- + Point to specifics
- + God is bigger than our heart – He understands
- + The poor you will have always – you are not God

*Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.*

Matthew 11:28-30 MSG