



## Reflection and Discussion Guide - Week 7

### 1 John 3:11-18

For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 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. Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 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? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

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1. In verse 11, the command to "love one another," is in the present tense, which indicates that our love for one another as Christians should be ongoing and consistent (versus sporadic). What is the key element that makes this possible for us, and why?
  2. What was John's purpose in telling us not to be like Cain? Read Genesis 4:1-12. How would you describe Cain's character and his treatment of his brother Abel? Discuss the contrast between Cain and the type of love that Christians are called to share with one another.
  3. In verse 13, John tells Christians not to be surprised when the world hates us. Why is this important advice? What are some poor responses that Christians sometimes give to the world's hatred? What is the right response?
  4. In verse 16, John describes the sacrificial nature of Jesus' love for us. Read Philippians 2:3-4. Practically speaking, what does sacrificial love look like between Christians? How have you experienced this kind of love? How are you seeking to express it to others?
  5. In verse 17, John emphasizes the importance of showing compassion. How does this reflect the heart of Christ? What are some practical ways we can express this kind of love to one another?
  6. In verse 18, John emphasizes the importance of our actions when it comes to loving one another. Why are tangible acts of love so valuable? Of all the aspects of love that John mentioned in this passage, which one(s) do you find most challenging to express? What is God impressing on your heart?