

**IT'S LOVE THAT MAKES
THE WORLD GO RIGHT
1 JOHN 3:11-18**

**I. WE HAVE A MESSAGE THAT
COMMANDS LOVE. 3:11**

1. LOVE IS ESSENTIAL (FROM THE BEGINNING).
2. LOVE IS PERSONAL (ONE ANOTHER).

**II. WE HAVE A MURDERER WHO
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2. OUR SERVICE PROVES OUR LOVE FOR HIM.

**IV. WE HAVE A MISSION THAT CALLS FOR
LOVE. 3:17-18**

1. DO NOT BE SELFISH WITH YOUR POSSESSIONS. 3:17
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**IT'S LOVE THAT MAKES THE WORLD GO
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1 JOHN 3:11-18

INTRODUCTION

1. ON MARCH 29, 1965 JACKIE DE SHANNON DEBUTED A SONG WRITTEN BY BURT BACKARACH AND HAL DAVID THAT WOULD RISE TO #4 ON THE POP CHARTS. THE WORDS OF THE FIRST 2 LINES WILL BE FAMILIAR, EVEN NOW, TO MOST OF YOU:
*WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW IS
LOVE, SWEET LOVE. IT'S THE ONLY
THING THAT THERE'S JUST TOO
LITTLE OF. WHAT THE WORLD
NEEDS NOW IS LOVE, SWEET LOVE.
NO NOT FOR SOME, BUT FOR
EVERYONE.*
2. WE MIGHT DEBATE THE PHRASE, "IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT THERE'S JUST TOO LITTLE OF," BUT I THINK WE WOULD ALL AGREE THAT THE WORLD COULD USE A LITTLE MORE LOVE FOR EVERYONE. THIS, BY THE WAY, IS NOT ANYTHING NEW. THE WORLD HAS NEEDED MORE LOVE SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME, AS OUR TEXT MAKES PAINFULLY CLEAR.
3. 1 JOHN 3:11 INITIATES A NEW CONVERSATION AND BEGINS A NEW THEME. IN 1:5 – 3:10 FOCUS WAS ON THE TRUTH, "GOD IS LIGHT" AND WHAT THAT MEANS. NOW THE FOCUS SHIFTS TO, "GOD IS LOVE" AND ALL THAT ENTAILS. 1 JOHN 1:5 TELLS US GOD IS LIGHT. 1 JOHN 4:8 TELLS US GOD IS LOVE. 1:5 AND 3:11 BEGIN WITH IDENTICAL PHRASES, PHRASES THAT ARE FOUND ONLY HERE IN THE WRITING OF JOHN, "THIS IS THE MESSAGE." IN 1:5 THE

MESSAGE IS “GOD IS LIGHT,” IN 3:11 THE MESSAGE IS “WE SHOULD LOVE ONE ANOTHER.”

TRANSITION: NOW IT IS FAIR TO ASK: WHY SHOULD WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER? WHAT IS THE BASIS UPON WHICH THIS CHALLENGE IS ISSUED? JOHN PICKS UP THE CHALLENGE AND PROVIDES 4 REASONS THAT PROVIDE THE EVIDENCE.

I. WE HAVE A MESSAGE THAT COMMANDS LOVE. 3:11

VERSE 11 BEGINS WITH “FOR” OR “BECAUSE” CONNECTING IT WITH VERSE 10. IF YOU DO NOT LOVE YOUR BROTHER (NEIGHBOR): 1) YOU ARE A CHILD OF THE DEVIL AND 2) YOU ARE NOT OF GOD. FOR THIS REASON AND WHAT FOLLOWS WE MUST HEED THE COMMAND TO LOVE.

1. LOVE IS ESSENTIAL (FROM THE BEGINNING).

MESSAGES (AGGELIA) ... HEARD FROM THE BEGINNING – IT LOOKS TO THEIR CONVERSION (TIME OF HEARING) AND THE BEGINNING OF THEIR CHRISTIAN LIFE. YET THE ILLUSTRATION IN VERSE 12 CANNOT RULE OUT THE BEGINNING OF CREATION.

- × THE MESSAGE IS GROUNDED IN THE VERY NATURE OF GOD (4:7-8).
- × THE MESSAGE WAS TAUGHT TO THE DISCIPLES BY JESUS HIMSELF.

JOHN 13:34-35 – “A NEW COMMANDMENT I GIVE TO YOU, THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER; AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, THAT YOU ALSO LOVE ONE ANOTHER. BY THIS

ALL WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YOU HAVE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER.”

JOHN 15: 12, 17 – “THIS IS MY COMMANDMENT, THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU. ... THESE THINGS I COMMAND YOU, THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER.”

- × THE CHALLENGE TO LOVE NEVER DIES, IT NEVER GROWS OLD. IT WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US. IT IS NOT OPTIONAL, IT IS ESSENTIAL.

2. LOVE IS PERSONAL (ONE ANOTHER).

- × LOVE (CONT.) ONE ANOTHER. THIS IS OUR CONSISTENT AND COMPREHENSIVE ASSIGNMENT. LOVE CONTINUALLY. LOVE INDIVIDUALLY. NO FAVORITES, NO BIAS, NO DISCRIMINATION HERE. IT IS NOT LOVE SOME, MANY, MOST OR ALMOST ALL. NO, LOVE THEM ALL... EVEN THOSE WHO HURT YOU, IGNORE YOU, MISTREAT YOU.
- × IT IS THE CHARACTER OF OUR LIFE NOT TO SIN (3:6). IT ALSO IS THE CHARACTER OF OUR LIFE TO LOVE OTHERS (3:11).

II. WE HAVE A MURDERER WHO CONTRADICTS LOVE. 3:12-15

- × JOHN TAKES US BACK TO THE FIRST EXAMPLE IN HISTORY OF A NON-LOVING ACT: THE MURDER OF ABEL BY HIS BROTHER CAIN.
- × THIS IS THE ONLY DIRECT OLD TESTAMENT REFERENCE IN 1 JOHN.

- × READ GEN. 4:1-16 (BROTHER 5X)
(BROTHER 7X IN 3:12-17).

1. DO NOT MURDER BY ACTION. 3:12-13

- × VERSE 12 STANDS IN START
CONTRAST TO THE END OF VERSE 11.
- × CAIN'S ACTIONS REVEALED HIS TRUE
SPIRITUAL FATHER. **JOHN 8:44** –
“YOU ARE OF YOUR FATHER THE
DEVIL, AND THE DESIRES OF YOUR
FATHER YOU WANT TO DO. HE WAS
A MURDERER FROM THE BEGINNING,
AND DOES NOT STAND IN THE TRUTH,
BECAUSE THERE IS NO TRUTH IN HIM.
WHEN HE SPEAKS A LIE, HE SPEAKS
FROM HIS OWN RESOURCES, FOR HE
IS A LIAR AND THE FATHER OF IT.”
(CF. VERSE 10)
- × MURDERED – MEANS TO BUTCHER,
SLAY, CUT THE THROAT. IT IS A
VIOLENT, BRUTAL KILLING.
- × THE MOTIVE? EVIL WORKS ROOTED
IN AN EVIL HEART. ABEL'S
RIGHTEOUS ACTS PROVOKED
JEALOUSLY IN CAIN, THEN HATRED,
THEN MURDER, “A NATURAL AND
TERRIBLE SEQUENCE” (STOTT, 144).
- × HATRED BY CAIN OF ABEL SIMPLY
ILLUSTRATES THE AGES-OLD
CONFLICT BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL,
BETWEEN GOD INSPIRED LOVE AND
SATAN INSPIRED HATRED. SATAN
HAS ALWAYS HATED GOD'S
CHILDREN AND SINCE THE WORLD
(SYSTEM) BELONGS TO HIM, DON'T
BE SURPRISED WHEN THEY HATE
YOU.
- × DO NOT MARVEL (BE SURPRISED, *NIV*)
IS A PRE. IMP. IT IS NATURAL FOR

THE WORLD TO HATE YOU BECAUSE THEIR FATHER HATES YOU. HE ALWAYS HAS. HE ALWAYS WILL. DON'T BE LIKE HIM. DO NOT MURDER IN ACTION. JESUS SAID IN **JOHN 15:18** – “IF THE WORLD HATES YOU, YOU KNOW THAT IT HATED ME BEFORE IT HATED YOU.”

2. **DO NOT MURDER IN ATTITUDE. 3:14-15**

- × WE IS EMPHATIC. OUR LOVE LIFE IS A TEST CASE FOR OUR SPIRITUAL STATUS AND CONDITION.
- × LOVING OTHERS CONTINUALLY OUT OF GRATITUDE FOR ALL JESUS HAS DONE FOR US (V. 16) GIVES PROOF THAT WE HAVE PASSED (W.A.R.) DECISIVELY AND DEFINITELY FROM SPIRITUAL DEATH TO SPIRITUAL LIFE. AS **JOHN 5:24** ADDS – “MOST ASSUREDLY, I SAY TO YOU, HE WHO HEARS MY WORD AND BELIEVES IN HIM WHO SENT ME HAS EVERLASTING LIFE, AND SHALL NOT COME INTO JUDGMENT, BUT HAS PASSED FROM DEATH INTO LIFE.”
- × ETERNAL LIFE IS NOT EARNED BY LOVING OTHERS, IT IS AN EVIDENCE THAT ETERNAL LIFE IS OURS. HENCE LOVING OTHERS IS AN AVENUE OF ASSURANCE OF ETERNAL LIFE, BUT IT IS NOT THE MEANS OF OBTAINING ETERNAL LIFE.
- × THE NEGATIVE COROLLARY IS CLEAR: IF YOU DO NOT LOVE OTHERS, THE ABSENCE OF LOVE PROVES YOU REMAIN IN THE REALM OF SPIRITUAL DEATH AND OUTSIDE THE SPHERE OF THE LIFE OF GOD.

- × IN FACT IN ATTITUDE YOUR HATE = MURDER (4X IN VERSES 12 & 15). JOHN'S REASONING FOLLOWS THE PATTERN OF OUR LORD'S TEACHING ON ADULTERY IN MATT. 5:27-28, AND IS REMINISCENT OF HIS WORDS IN MATT. 5:21-22 WHERE HE SAYS, "YOU HAVE HEARD THAT IT WAS SAID TO THOSE OF OLD, 'YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, AND WHOEVER MURDERS WILL BE IN DANGER OF THE JUDGMENT.' BUT I SAY TO YOU THAT WHOEVER IS ANGRY WITH HIS BROTHER WITHOUT A CAUSE SHALL BE IN DANGER OF THE JUDGMENT. AND WHOEVER SAYS TO HIS BROTHER, 'RACA!' SHALL BE IN DANGER OF THE COUNCIL. BUT WHOEVER SAYS, 'YOU FOOL!' SHALL BE IN DANGER OF HELL FIRE."
- × LOVE AND HATE ARE MORAL OPPOSITES. JOHN SAYS NO LOVE, NO LIFE.

TRANSITION: DO NOT MURDER IN ACTION. DO NOT MURDER IN ATTITUDE.

III. WE HAVE A MASTER WHO COMPELS LOVE.

3:16

- × HAVING DEMONSTRATED THAT LOVE IS AN EVIDENCE OF LIFE (SPIRITUAL LIFE) IN A CHILD OF GOD, JOHN MOVES TO SET BEFORE US THE SUPREME EXAMPLE OF THIS LOVE: THE SACRIFICE OF THE SON OF GOD.
- × IT IS INTERESTING AND INSTRUCTIVE TO COMPARE JOHN 3:16 WITH 1 JOHN 3:16. JOHN 3:16 SAYS THAT GOD GAVE HIS

- SON FOR US. 1 JOHN 3:16 SAYS THAT WE SHOULD GIVE OURSELVES FOR OTHERS.
- × YOU WANT TO SEE LOVE: LOOK AT THE CROSS! YOU WANT TO SHOW LOVE: LOOK AT THE CROSS!

1. **HIS SACRIFICE PROVES HIS LOVE FOR US.**

BY THIS – LOOKS FORWARD TO WHAT FOLLOWS.

KNOW (W.A.R.) LOVE – SPEAKS OF ACQUIRED UNDERSTANDING. AT ONE TIME I DID NOT KNOW, BUT NOW I DO. “I NEVER KNEW LOVE BEFORE, THEN CAME JESUS!”

SAYYED HASSEIN NASR HAS SAID, “ISLAM DOES NOT ACCEPT THAT HE [JESUS] WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED, AND THEN WAS RESURRECTED. ISLAM BELIEVES HE WAS TAKEN TO HEAVEN WITHOUT DYING, WITHOUT SUFFERING THE PAIN OF DEATH.” JOHN SEES IT DIFFERENTLY!

HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US!

WHO? – HE (JESUS)

WHAT? – LAID DOWN HIS LIFE

WHY? – FOR US

- × BY A CONSCIENCE, WILLFUL AND DELIBERATE ACT HE PROVED HIS LOVE FOR US ON CALVARY. “HE TOOK THE FALL AND THOUGHT OF ME (& YOU) ABOVE ALL!”
- × NO GREATER GIFT COULD HE GIVE. NO GREATER SACRIFICE COULD HE MAKE.
- × SIN NAILED JESUS TO THE CROSS, BUT LOVE KEPT JESUS ON THE CROSS.

TRANSITION: HIS SACRIFICE PROVES HIS LOVE FOR US.

2. OUR SACRIFICE PROVES OUR LOVE FOR HIM.

- × OUGHT – IS EMPHATIC AND ENTAILS MORAL OBLIGATION.
- × JUST LIKE HE DIED FOR US WE SHOULD BE WILLING TO DIE FOR OTHERS. JUST LIKE HE PUT IT ALL ON THE LINE FOR US WE SHOULD BE WILLING TO PUT IT ALL ON THE LINE FOR OTHERS.
- × WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION, A MANDATE, TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE WITH OUR LORD.
- × WIERSBE (P. 127), “SELF PRESERVATION IS THE 1ST LAW OF PHYSICAL LIFE, BUT SELF SACRIFICE IS THE 1ST LAW OF SPIRITUAL LIFE.”
- × JESUS SAID IN **JOHN 15:13** – “GREATER LOVE HAS NO ONE THAT THIS, THAN TO LAY DOWN ONE’S LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.”

IV. WE HAVE A MISSION THAT CALLS FOR LOVE. 3:17-18

- × “I WOULD DIE FOR YOU SOUNDS VERY SPIRITUAL! BUT HEY, WILL YOU HELP ME FIND A PLACE TO SLEEP OR GET A BITE TO EAT? I DON’T NEED YOU TO DIE FOR ME. I JUST NEED YOU TO HELP ME!”
- × JOHN GIVES DOWN AND DIRTY, REAL AND PRACTICAL ADVICE IN THE CONTEXT OF EVERYDAY LIFE.

1. **DO NOT BE SELFISH WITH YOUR POSSESSIONS. 3:17**

BUT – INTRODUCES A NEGATIVE EXAMPLE, MOVING FROM THE GREATER TO THE LESSER.

- a. YOU HAVE THE STUFF OF LIFE.
- b. YOU SEE (DENOTES CAREFUL AND CONTINUAL OBSERVATION) YOUR BROTHER (A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL) IN NEED.
- c. YOU SHUT UP (TO CLOSE OR LOCK A DOOR) YOUR HEART (*SPLANGCHNA*). THE HEART CONTROLS THE HAND!

YOU SLAM THE DOOR OF YOUR HEART SHUT IN HIS OR HER FACE ... HOW DOES GOD'S LOVE ABIDE IN YOU? ANS. – IT DOESN'T.

- × YOU HAVE THE RESOURCES, YOU HAVE THE REALIZATION, BUT ... YOU LACK THE RESOLVE ... GOD'S LOVE SIMPLY IS NOT THERE.
- × JOHN IS CONCERNED WITH A LACK OF LOVE. IN A RELATED PASSAGE JAMES IS CONCERNED WITH A LACK OF FAITH. THE TWO GO TOGETHER. **JAMES 2:15-17** SAYS, "IF A BROTHER OR SISTER IS NAKED AND DESTITUTE OF DAILY FOOD, AND ONE OF YOU SAYS TO THEM, "DEPART IN PEACE, BE WARMED AND FILLED," BUT YOU DO NOT GIVE THEM THE THINGS WHICH ARE NEEDED FOR THE BODY, WHAT DOES IT PROFIT? THUS ALSO FAITH BY ITSELF, IF IT DOES NOT HAVE WORKS, IS DEAD."
- × A DEAD HEART AND DEAD WORDS GO TOGETHER. DEAD LOVE AND

DEAD FAITH GO HAND IN HAND AS WELL.

2. **DO NOT BE SATISFIED WITH YOUR PROFESSION. 3:18**

- × JOHN MAKES HIS FINAL APPEAL IN THIS SECTION BASED ON THEIR COMMON SPIRITUAL LIFE AND HIS FATHERLY CARE AND CONCERN FOR THEM.
- × HE USES A COMMON NEGATIVE-POSITIVE LINE OF REASONING.
- × WORD OR TONGUE – LOVE IS MORE THAN MAKING A GOOD SPEECH OR USING IMPRESSIVE RHETORIC (CF. 1 COR. 13). NO, LOVE EXPRESSES ITSELF IN DEEDS. LOVE IS AN ACTION WORD!
- × TRUTH IS ADDED TO DEED BECAUSE THOUGH WORDS MAY BE EMPTY, ACTIONS CAN BE HYPOCRITICAL; DONE OUT OF THE WRONG MOTIVES OR FOR THE WRONG REASONS.
- × THE LOVE JOHN IS TALKING ABOUT IS EMBODIED IN A PARABLE JESUS TOLD RECORDED IN LUKE 10:30-37.
[READ]

CONCLUSION

AUGUSTINE (354 – 430), THE GREAT CHURCH FATHER SAID, “LOVE CHRIST WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND DO AS YOU PLEASE.” IF WE TRULY LOVE CHRIST WE WILL NOT LOVE OTHERS IN WORD ONLY, WHICH IS NO LOVE AT ALL. WE WILL ALSO LOVE THEM IN DEED AND IN TRUTH, JUST LIKE JESUS LOVES US.