



27 SEPTEMBER 2026 AM

1 John 3:11-12

TRIBE-13

= a close-knit community with shared identity

For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 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.

1 John 3:11-12

INTRODUCTION

A DOMESTIC TIE 3:11-12

- in chapter three, John has shifted his focus from fellowship in the family of God collectively to the individual and his responsibility to the family

verse 10

In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

this verse is the key to the chapter...it describes for us what a genuine Christian really is:

the one who does righteousness

we covered this in 3:3-9 last week

the one who loves his brother

this is the topic for this morning

- consider the life John had led...

he began as a fisherman, working hard every day in order to make a living for his extended family

he chose to follow Christ and observed the hardships of that ministry...being an outcast, dealing with religious persecution, the crucifixion of Christ, and the struggles of being an Apostle after that

John spent 10 years on Patmos

- so for John to now focus on the love Christians should have for one another, it doesn't seem so strange

having been witness to the anger and hatred of the world against us, John reasons that we should be able to find love, acceptance, and help among other believers

'I don't know what people do without a church home'

- in the passage before us, John shows us there are three levels on which a person can live:

hatred	ACTIVE	
indifference	PASSIVE	verse 17
love	ACTIVE	verse 18

The worst sin toward our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them.

That is the essence of inhumanity.

~ George Bernard Shaw

1. THE ORIGINAL COMMAND **vs 11-13**

A BENEVOLENT EDICT **verse 11**

For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

love **ONE ANOTHER**...not just the loveable ones from the beginning...Jesus gave this command

John 13:34

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

John 15:12

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

John used the Greek word *agape*, indicating we are to love others as God loves us

the ability to live in this manner comes from the Holy Spirit residing in us

Romans 5:5 ...shed abroad in our hearts

Galatians 5:22 ...fruit of the Spirit

A BIBLICAL EXAMPLE **verse 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.

CAIN and **ABEL**

Genesis 4:1-13

Cain killed his brother out of jealousy because God did not accept his offering

take note of **verse 6**...God approached Cain

Song 8:6 ...jealousy is cruel as the grave

NOTE: **verse 3** And in process of time...God must have previously instructed the family as to the importance of a blood sacrifice...it was offered by faith (**Hebrews 11:4**) and faith comes by hearing the Word of God (**Romans 10:17**)

in using Cain as an example, John is connecting hatred with murder

cf **Matthew 5:21-25**

A BROTHERLY EXHORTATION **verse 13**

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

Don't be surprised...

Cain killed Abel because he was in right fellowship with God

the world crucified Jesus for the same reason

thus, it should never surprise us that the world actively pursues enmity with us

Jesus said it would happen

John 15:18-20

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 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. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

in fact, it should surprise us if the world *doesn't* hate us

if the world is indifferent to us, we are doing something wrong

ever notice how atheists don't sue muslims???

2. THE OBVIOUS CONTRAST **vs 14-15**

NOTE: these verbs are in the same tense as those in **verses 1-10**, with the idea of *practicing* love and hate

LOVE IS A MARK **verse 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.

love is evidence we are saved

Acts 4 people saved, added, and provided

Acts 5 Ananias and Sapphira lied

Acts 6 fighting over widows

Jesus said love was proof of being a disciple

John 13:35

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

LOATHING IS MURDER **verse 15**

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

hateth...hath...abiding in him **verb tenses**

murder and hatred are equal in John's mind

a murderer can be saved, but a saved person can't murder

Alexander

1 Timothy 1:18-20

2 Timothy 4:14-15