

## The Seriousness of Not Loving

1 John 3:11-15

- I. Believers must love one another (1 John 3: 11-12).
  - A. Jesus' Command: We must love one another as Christ commanded (3:11; John 13:34).
  - B. Cain – Example of hating brother: Don't be like Cain who hated his brother (3:12).
    - **His brother** – Someone who was **once close** could become someone we now hate.
    - **His own actions were evil** – **Guilt** about ourselves is often transferred into a hatred for someone else.
    - **His brother's (actions) were righteous** – **Envy** of someone else is often the source of our hatred.
  - C. World – Example of unbeliever's hatred: Don't be surprised that the world hates believers [implied – but believers shouldn't hate their own.] (3:13).
- II. Believers expose their spiritual condition by loving or failing to love fellow believers (1 John 3:13-14).
  - A. Love: When we love our fellow believers our new life is obvious (3:14a; see John 13:35).
  - B. Hate: When we do not love our fellow believers our old nature is obvious (3:14b-15).
    - We are “abiding in” death – our old sinful nature (3:14b).
    - To hate our brother is spiritually like murder; the new nature is not “abiding in” one who murders (3:15).