

Bible Study Questions

Love one another

READ 1 John 3:10-24

1. Are there any things that strike, intrigue, or puzzle you? Discuss ...
2. When John says “this is the message that you have heard from the beginning ...” (v. 11), what “beginning” do you think he has in mind? When did they first hear this, and from whom? [see John 13:34-35; 15:12, 17].
3. If they have heard this message before, why do you think John feels the need to repeat it?
4. In verse 12, John points to an example of who we should *not* be like, in Cain.
 - a. What do you know about Cain? Refresh your memory by reading Genesis 4:1-16.
 - b. We are told that Cain was angry (verse 5-6). Is anger a sin? Or was his sin something else?
 - c. What did God warn Cain about, in verse 7? How does this compare with what Peter says in 1 Peter 5:8? What does this tell us about how sin works, and what we need to do?
5. In verse 13 (back in 1 John 3), John tells us that we not be surprised if the world hates us.
 - a. Why might the world hate us? Have you ever experienced or witnessed this? How should we respond to this? [see Luke 6:20-23; John 15:18-25; James 4:4]
 - b. Is all targeting of Christians unfair and unjustified? Can you think of any times it was justified? How should we respond to this? [see 1 Peter 4:15-16]
6. In verse 19, John says “by this we shall know that we are of the truth” By what? [see verse 16, also John 13:35]
 - a. What does love look like, according to verse 16? Have you ever had to do this? What’s the most costly thing you’ve had to do out of love for a Christian brother or sister?
 - b. What does John tell us about how we show love in verses 17-18?
7. In verse 21, John tells us how we can have confidence before God.
 - a. What gives us this confidence?
 - b. How do you think this verse fits with these other passages which also speak of assurance and confidence before God: John 5:24; 6:47; 10:29; 1 John 5:12-13; Romans 8:16, 38-39?
8. What do you need to do as a result of reading this passage? And what should you not be doing?