



# 1 JOHN

## **Love in Action (1 John 3:11-24)**

# 1 John 3:11-24

- <sup>11</sup> For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.
- <sup>12</sup> 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.
- <sup>13</sup> Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.
- <sup>14</sup> We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.
- <sup>15</sup> Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

# 1 John 3:11-24

- <sup>16</sup> By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. <sup>17</sup> 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?
- <sup>18</sup> Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.
- <sup>19</sup> By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; <sup>20</sup> for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup> Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; <sup>22</sup> and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

# 1 John 3:11-24

- <sup>23</sup> And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.
- <sup>24</sup> Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

# Introduction: A pinball machine in Paris



# A pinball machine in Paris

- “We go once a week . . . After a month or so, I noticed something odd. When we began to play, I would always discreetly drag a café chair over from the table and put it alongside the machine for him [his three-year-old son, Luke] to stand on. But after we had done this five or six times, over five or six weeks, I noticed that someone had quietly tucked that small café chair under the left flipper, for Luke to stand on. The chair, the little bistro chair, was pushed under the pinball machine, on the left, or Lukeish, side. There was no talk, no explanation; no one mentioned it or pointed it out. No, it was a quiet courtesy, offered to a short client who came regularly to take his pleasure there.”

--Adam Gopnik, *Paris to the Moon*

# I. Love in Action

- **A. Commandment of Love (3:11, 18, 23b)**
- <sup>11</sup> For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. (3:11)
- <sup>18</sup> Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. (3:18)
- “and love one another, just as he has commanded us” (3:23b).
- *“So, you shall keep my commandments and do them: I am the LORD” (Leviticus 22:31).*
- *Commandments develop obedience*

# I. Love in Action

- **B. Examples of Love (3:16-17)**

- 1. Spiritual Example: Jesus Christ**

- <sup>16</sup> By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. (3:16)
    - *Jesus: "For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you" (John 13:15).*

- 2. Practical Example: Material Needs**

- <sup>17</sup> 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? (3:17)
    - *Back of the bulletin: (Matthew 25:37-40)*

# The Augustinian Nuns and the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec (1644)



# I. Love in Action

- **C. Opposition to Love (3:12-13)**

- <sup>12</sup> 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. (3:12)
- “Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer” (3:15a)
- *“Verse 12 traces the murder of Abel to Cain’s hatred, and verse 15a teaches us that **the action is the outcome of the attitude**” (David Jackman).*
- <sup>13</sup> Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.
- *“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. <sup>19</sup> **If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own.** As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you” (John 15:18-19).*

## II. Love in the Spirit

- **A. Born-Again Love (3:14, 23a, 24b)**
- <sup>14</sup> We know that **we have passed out of death into life**, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.
- *Jesus answered him [Nicodemus], “Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born again [and/or from above]** he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).*
- <sup>23</sup> And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
- *For “**everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**” (Acts 10:13).*
- And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (3:24b)
- *In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were **sealed with the promised Holy Spirit** (Ephesians 1:13).*

## II. Love in the Spirit

- **B. Assurance of Love/Salvation (3:19-22)**

- <sup>19</sup> By this we shall know that we are of the truth and **reassure our heart** before him; <sup>20</sup> for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup> Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; <sup>22</sup> and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.
  
- *“For God **so loved the world**, that he gave his only Son, that **whoever believes** in him should not perish but **have eternal life**” (John 3:16).*
- *“And I am sure of this, that **he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion** at the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6).*
- *Therefore, brothers and sisters . . . <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart **in full assurance of faith** (Hebrews 10:19, 22)*

## II. Love in the Spirit

- **C. Fellowship of Love (3:24a)**
- <sup>24</sup> Whoever keeps his commandments **abides in God, and God in him.**
- ***Within the Trinity:*** “An eternal fellowship of love”
- ***Vertical love:*** “I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you” (John 14:20b).
- ***Horizontal love:*** “Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor” (Romans 12:9-10).

# Takeaway

- **Put Faith into Action:**
- ***22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. (James 1:22-25)***
- *But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and **I will show you my faith by my works** (James 2:18).*

**Let Us Pray**

