

1 John 3:10-18

Children of God Love the Church

By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 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. Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 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? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

1 John 3:10-18

1. Proof that one is a child of God: love for fellow Christians (vv.10-16)

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

(John 13:34–35)

1. Proof that one is a child of God: love for fellow Christians (vv.10-16)
 - The prototype of the world: Cain (vv.12-14)
 - The prototype of the church: Jesus (v.16)

Why is John making such a big deal of this?

- Some people had left the church (2:18-19), and thus showed that they weren't truly Christians.
- But if someone loves their brothers and sisters in Christ, they will not give up meeting with them.

The church, with all her flaws, is the bride of Christ, and you cannot love Him without loving her.

1. Proof that one is a child of God: love for fellow Christians (vv.10-16)
2. Proof that one loves fellow Christians: meeting their physical needs (vv.16-18)