

# So That You May Know

## An Expositional Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

### Chapter 14- The Second Line **1John 3:11-18**

#### 131. Distinguishing Between Love and Hate- Part 15

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WAOY Wednesday 01/09/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about "The Distinction Between Love and Hate". So, let's read **1John 3:11-18** again together:

**11** For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;

**12** not as Cain, *who* was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

**13** Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.

**14** We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

**15** Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

**16** We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

**17** But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

**18** Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

Now over the last several broadcasts- we have been looking very closely at verses 14 & 15 of this passage- and today I want us to examine the last three verses of this passage- so let's read verses 16-18 again together:

**16** We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

**17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?**

**18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.**

Now John is clearly teaching here that the love that believers are to have for one another is going to cost us something. And we must understand that this love that is manifested only in the Church is not just something nice that we occasionally do for each other because it is the right thing to do- or because it is convenient- but this love flows out of a genuine and real heart that has been both reborn by the Grace of a Supernatural and good God and humbled by the knowledge that we don't deserve so great Salvation.

And this love is holy; this love is eternal; this love never waivers and the entire world looks on in awe when this love is manifested. Verse 16 holds the key to this entire passage of weight verses. Verse 16 gives us the fundamental cause as to why we are to love one another:

**... that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.**

John says here that our love for the brethren is born out of a full understanding that Jesus laid down His Life for us. So because God loved us first; because God chose us and we did not choose God; because God predestinated us for Salvation before the foundation of the world; because God called us out of darkness; because God actively went after us and overrode our natural tendency to rebel against Him; because God gave us to Jesus; because Jesus guaranteed our Salvation by taking upon Himself the sins of us all; because Jesus Christ gave up His Own Will and submitted Himself to the Will of His Father; because Jesus prayed, **“Not my Will but Yours be done”**. Because Jesus was willing to drink of that bitter cup; because Jesus withheld nothing from us; because of all of that- John cries out to us today:

**... we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.**

Now what exactly does it mean to **“lay down our lives for the brethren”**? Does this mean that we are to literally die for each other? Does it mean

that we are to be crucified for each other the same way that Jesus was crucified? Let's look at just what it means to "lay down our lives".

To begin with- we must understand that there is only one Jesus. Nobody is required to lay down his life in the sense of being crucified for sins except Jesus. And this is true for two reasons. First of all- the only sacrifice that God would accept that had the ability to take away all the sins of every human being who has ever lived or that will ever live was a sacrifice that met three criteria:

1. A male lamb
2. A first born male lamb
3. A first born male lamb without any spot or blemish

Only Jesus fills all three requirements. Jesus was a "male lamb" in the sense that He was the Lamb of God Who came to this earth for the sole purpose of dying for the sins of God's people. Secondly, Jesus was the "first born" in the sense that He was what the King James Version calls the "Only Begotten of the Father".

Now there is some controversy surrounding this term, "only begotten". Many times, off the wall cults like the Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons use this term to incorrectly conclude that it proves that Jesus was a "created" Being and was not God. But the correct translation of this phrase reveals that Jesus was actually the "One and Only of the Father" in the sense that Jesus was the most unique Person Who ever lived.

You see, to be the "first born" in the days of the Bible meant that all the authority of the father was passed on to you. So, in that sense all of Gods' authority was given to Jesus.

Thirdly- the only sacrifice that was *qualified* to take away the sins of the whole world was a sacrifice that was absolutely spotless. Jesus is the only human being before since or after who was absolutely sinless in every way. Although it is true that Jesus was tempted in all points just like we are tempted- it is also true that Jesus never committed one single sin in either thought, word, or deed the entire time he was on the earth.

Jesus kept the Law of God perfectly in every way- every moment of every day in which He walked on this earth- and He is the only Person born of woman who can make that claim.

The reason that Jesus had the ability to live His life without any sin at all is not because He was gifted with extraordinary will power in which He could simply be disciplined enough to obey. No, the reason that Jesus never sinned is more simple than that. Jesus never sinned because Jesus Christ was God Almighty manifested in human flesh. Jesus is God in human form. Jesus is God with a body.

But at the same time that Jesus was God- He was also a flesh and blood human being. Jesus was both incarnate of the Holy Spirit and He was born of a virgin. Jesus was not part God and part man. Jesus was not a glorified Man. Jesus was not an alien from outer space. No, the mystery of the Christ is that Jesus was 100% God and 100% Man at the same time in the same body without conflict or contradiction. That makes Jesus to be the most unique and the most special Person in all of human history.

And as God- Jesus *could* not sin and *did* not sin but as a man- Jesus could suffer and die so that we might live. Think of this- Jesus never lusted one time- not even in His heart. Jesus never coveted anything ever. Jesus never stole anything. Jesus never lied in any way. Jesus never dishonored his parents. Jesus never made idols or worshipped a false god. Jesus never broke the Sabbath- because His entire life was spent living under the Law so that He might fulfill the Law in Himself. Jesus never bore false witness and Jesus never murdered.

Jesus is the only human being born of woman before or since Who can say that. No one- not Adam; not Noah; not Abraham; not Moses; not David; not Isaiah; not Paul; not Peter; not John; not me nor you can say with any degree of truthfulness that we have ever lived without sin. But Jesus never lived one day with sin- and that makes Jesus different from anyone else.

As Jesus lived day after day for 33-1/2 years without ever sinning one single time; as Jesus was bombarded with temptations- many of which we will never have to go through; as Jesus walked this earth perfectly sinless- He was doing two things simultaneously.

First of all- Jesus was manifesting the very definition of love. No human being on earth before or since has ever loved God like Jesus loved God. And no other human being has ever loved Man to the same degree that Jesus loved Man.

Only Jesus loved God with all His Heart; and with all His Soul; and with all His Mind; and with all His Strength. Nobody else has ever

loved God to that extent. And when Jesus willingly took upon Himself all of our sins and when Jesus willingly received the full fury of God's wrath against our sins – He loved us more than anyone else will ever love us.

So the first reason that Jesus walked this earth completely sinless is so that He alone could absolutely and completely fulfill the Law of God that He gave to Moses.

But there was second reason that Jesus walked this earth as a spotless Lamb for 33 ½ years before He was crucified.

Every single day that Jesus did not sin- He was actually and literally earning His very own Personal Righteousness. You see, Jesus did what every human on earth tries to do. It is inherent in the human soul to try to be righteous. We work constantly every day to try to be good enough to go to heaven. We try to do good deeds; have nice thoughts; be kind; give and extend ourselves.

Every single religion on earth and every single human philosophy on earth teaches the very same thing. In order to go to heaven- we have to be righteous. Even Christianity teaches that in order for anyone to ever go to heaven – they must be righteous.

The difference between all of the false religions and philosophies on earth and Biblical Christianity is in *how* we obtain that righteousness.

All false religions; all cults; all pseudo religions; all philosophies all teach the same thing- in order for a person to go to heaven- he must work real hard to *earn* his own personal righteous through his good deeds.

All the elaborate rituals and ceremonies of all the false religions in the world are designed to do one thing- make the person who does them correctly to be righteous enough to go to heaven. So all of those false religions teach the same thing- that we have to work real hard to develop our *own* personal righteousness to the point where we have literally *earned* the right to go to heaven

Except Biblical Christianity, that is. Biblical Christianity alone teaches that because we are all fallen creatures- no one can *ever* develop his own righteousness to the point of being able to earn heaven. Christianity teaches that because Jesus developed His Own Righteousness by living a sinless life- that you and I are made fit for Heaven because God imputes or credits that very same Righteousness that Jesus literally earned to us- not by us earning it or deserving it

because of what *we* have done- but we are made righteous on the basis of faith alone. In other words- we are made righteous and fit for heaven because we believe.

So by Jesus setting aside His Own Will and perfectly obeying His Father in all points- we are now made righteous and as a result of God doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves- we humbly and graciously take no thought for ourselves- but expend ourselves in love toward each other.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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