

1 John 3:11-24 – Church Vision: Love

CONSIDER: In **v11** John starts by, in effect, saying 'How many times have I told you?', like a parent to a loved child. What is it we haven't 'got' yet? (**v11b**). Why would this look particularly remarkable in a church, rather than a Sports Club (for example)? Therefore, why is this an important challenge?

In **v12-15** and **v16-18** there is the contrast between looking like Cain and looking like Jesus.

1. **v12** What is the heart of Cain like and what is the result? That term is quite extreme. How can we be like that? What attitudes would betray that kind of heart? Why is this so wrong for a believer (**v14** and **15b**)?
2. **v15b** would seem to say that if we have hearts like that we can't be a believer, yet we also know that "*He who has the son has life*". So, what is the real call of **v15b**? How should we respond?
3. Actually, **v13** tells us that we *should* naturally be utterly different from the world if we are to be like Jesus, and that means that we aren't imitating the attitudes of the world in our heart and so we'll be misunderstood by the world. Share some situations where this has happened to you. How did you feel then? How should you feel, in reality?
4. How does Jesus love (**v16**)? Notice that Jesus Decided to love, Turned from self, Laid down His life. In what way does that demonstrate how we are to love? What parts of this do you find most difficult? What enables us to love this way? How might we as a group enable one another?
5. **v17** can be a stumbling block ... we think we have to help everyone. The Greek, however, for 'sees' suggests a 'directed sight'. What does this mean in practice for us? How does this link to the parable of the Good Samaritan? How might we practice this within our home group?
6. **v19-24** give the outcome of our love. Three outcomes: Assurance, Confidence and Closeness. Which verses bring these three outcomes out? How important does that make the exercising of love to each other?

CONTINUE TO APPLY & RESPOND:

- What has God particularly been challenging you about?
- What can others pray for you to help you respond to His challenge?

Don't forget to leave time to share and pray together.

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