

# Love and An Open Heart



**1 John 3:11-18**

# Introduction



- \* Central relational tenant of the Christian faith=love one another**
- \* One of the several “one another” passages in the NT**
- \* We will be looking at 6 facets of this challenge to love with an open heart**

# MESSAGE FROM THE BEGINNING



- \* No mistake that this is part of the original gospel message
- \* We should love one another
- \* Good news is that Jesus gives example and power to do this
- \* This is what needs to be restored!

# CAIN'S NEGATIVE EXAMPLE



- \* Story in **Genesis 4:1-16**
- \* We should not be like Cain—negative example often powerful!
- \* Question: why did he murder him?  
Answer—His own deeds were evil, and his brother's righteous.
- \* Lord looked with favor on Abel's sacrifice, not on Cain's sacrifice.
- \* **Hebrews 11:4**

# PROOF OF LIFE



- \* **Example of proof of life**
- \* **What is proof of spiritual life and vitality?**
- \* **Passed out of death into life**
- \* **Bitterness can move into hatred--Hatred like a murderer!**
- \* **Murderer has no eternal life abiding in him**

# WORLD HATES YOU



- \* Comes from Satan, who is the Father of lies and hatred
- \* Objects of scorn, derision, hatred and misrepresentation
- \* Sometimes hard to deal with hatred
- \* Jesus offered love, acceptance and forgiveness
- \* we represent reprehensible and unthinkable

# READY TO SACRIFICE FOR OTHERS



- \* He laid down his life for us
- \* Memorial Day—several stories of individuals laying down their lives for others
- \* Are we ready, can we conceive of sacrificing our lives for our brothers and sisters in Christ?
- \* Christians hid Jews in WWII.
- \* Principle for today in the church?

# PROOF IN AN OPEN HEART

- \* Early practice of Christians
- \* Christian hospitality
- \* If we have and others are in need, how can we close our hearts?
- \* Implication that humanity struggles with closed hearts until opened by the love of Christ!
- \* This is proof and how God's love abides





# Conclusion



- \* MESSAGE FROM THE BEGINNING**
- \* CAIN'S NEGATIVE EXAMPLE**
- \* WORLD HATES YOU**
- \* PROOF OF LIFE**
- \* READY TO SACRIFICE FOR OTHERS**
- \* PROOF IN AN OPEN HEART**