



**Community of Hope Church  
Community Group Bible Study**

**1 John**

Sept. 2020-Jan. 2021

**Lesson #8: Week of Nov. 9**

1 John 3:10-18: The Family of God

**Read** this passage aloud. What stands out most as you hear these verses?

**Opening Discussion Question:** Who is someone (in history or alive today) whose life is an example of what it means to love? Who is someone (in history or alive today) whose life is an example of what it means to hate?

**Examine this passage**

- What message had the readers of 1 John heard from the beginning?
- Why did Cain murder his brother?
- About what should believers not be surprised?
- How can a person know that he or she has passed from death to life?
- What is the result of hating one's brother?
- How do we know what love is?
- What question did the author ask his readers?
- How should Christians love?

**Chat**

- How does the world hate believers today?
- When have you experienced the hatred of the world?
- What does it mean to love one's brother?
- When do you struggle with loving other Christians?
- How do you demonstrate your love for fellow believers?
- Why do we struggle with loving other Christians with our material possessions?
- Why is it easier to love with words rather than actions?

## Apply

- Where does my heart look more like Cain's heart than it does Christ's heart?
- How does the love of Christ demonstrated to me empower me to love God's children more deeply?
- For what fellow Christian whom you have difficulty loving will you do something kind this week?
- How can you use your material possessions to love another believer this week?

## Pray

- Pray that God would give you the desire and the strength to change your attitude toward a person in your life that is difficult to love. Pray for that person daily, and see what God does.
- Pray for Jesus to come to the hearts of those in our world that profess hatred toward Christians in words or actions. Pray for God to reveal himself to them.

Just a note from Koko:

In the letters that John wrote, that we find in our New Testament, he is so very diligent in supporting his readers with the truths about who is Jesus and that God loves His children enough to show us the difference between right and wrong, between an abundant life and one of self-destruction.

Years ago, I came across a Bible translation by Pastor Eugene Peterson called *The Message*. At first reading I found myself going repeatedly to my NIV Bible to see if it agreed with the modern wording of *The Message*. I never found a disagreement between the texts, instead I found the modernized language made my study of scripture a good deal more personal and the modernized language was like listening to a friend sharing an insight they had to scripture. I offer this reading from *The Message* as another way to think about what you have read in your Bible and understood in your study.

The following is 1 John 3:9-20 from *The Message* by Pastor Eugene Peterson

*"People conceived and brought into life by God, don't make a practice of sin. How could they? God's seed is deep within them, making them who they are. It's not in the nature of the God-begotten children to practice and parade sin. Here's how you tell the difference between God's children and the Devil's children: The one who won't practice righteous ways isn't from God, nor is the one who won't love brother or sister. A simple test. For this is the original message we heard: We should love each other.*

*We must not be like Cain, who joined the Evil One and then killed his brother. And why did he kill him? Because he was deep in the practice of evil, while the acts of his brother were righteous. So, don't be surprised, friends, when the world hates you. This has been going on a long time.*

*The way we know we've been transferred from death to life is that we love our brothers and sisters. Anyone who doesn't love is as good as dead. Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know very well that eternal life and murder don't go together.*

*This is how we've come to understand and experience love: Christ sacrificed his life for us. This is why we ought to live sacrificially for our fellow believers, and not just be out for ourselves. If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God's love? It disappears. And you made it disappear!*

*My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love. This is the only way we'll know we're living truly, living in God's reality. It's also the way to shut down debilitating self-criticism, even when there is something to it. For God is greater than our worried hearts and knows more about us than we do ourselves."*

I especially liked the way that this final paragraph points out the connection between peace with God and peace with ourselves. I know we have all prayed over this recent election. In our peaceful life with God let us pray that His peace will settle like a soft blanket over all of us, regardless how we, and others have voted.

*I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. John 14:27 (NLT)*

*For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.  
1 John 3:11 (NIV)*

In His Hands  
Koko