



Contrasting Examples

By Shannon Ford on October 15, 2021

TODAY'S READING: 1 John 3

Repetition is the key to learning. This seems to be the method John is using in 1 John. In his letter, he hits several topics over and over. He wants us to “get it.” He has already talked to us about love and now we hit that topic again. In verses 11-18 of 1 John 3, we see the importance of loving others with two contrasting examples: a negative example in Cain and a positive example in Jesus.

John's teaching on loving others is direct. When we fail to love others, we are acting just like Cain. When we harbor bad feelings, when we hate or attack another, we are refusing to do what is right just like Cain. When we tear down someone's character and spotlight their faults to make ourselves look better, it is a murderous attitude, and it is sin. However, if we want to know what it means to love, we need to look at the sacrificial life of Jesus. This kind of love could be called “Extreme Love.” It is the kind of love that is willing to give its life for another. This is the kind of love God wants all of us to have.

Love is the standard equipment of a Christian. Love is practical. Our job is to share what has been given to us. Love means being generous rather than selfish. It is looking for ways to share rather than accumulate. Love recognizes that everything we have is given to us by God. It is a tool we can use to help others. We must diligently look for opportunities to show mercy, grace, kindness and love to hurting people. We must begin in the church with our brothers and sisters in Christ but not keep our love within these walls. If we develop this kind of a love for others, we will draw people to the Lord rather than push them away. And we will be more like Jesus instead of Cain.

PRAYER: Lord, help us show the love of Christ in our daily actions and words. As Jesus sacrificed his life for others, I pray that we will be motivated by His selfless sacrificial love in our love for our family, friends and others.

TOMORROW'S READING: Weekend is for catch-up and review.

MONDAY'S READING: 1 John 4

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