



## **Part 6: Learning to Love When Love is Hard 1 John 3:11-18**

### **1. Our Message:** \_\_\_\_\_

*“This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.” 1 John 3:11-15*

### **2. Our Model** \_\_\_\_\_

*“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.” 1 John 3:16*

### **3. Our Mission** \_\_\_\_\_

*“If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” 1 John 3:17-18*

### **If I'm going to love like Jesus:**

#### **1.** \_\_\_\_\_

*“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.” 1 John 3:1*

#### **2.** \_\_\_\_\_

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,” Galatians 5:22*

## **Daily Meditations**

Spend time each day this week meditating on today's topic!

### **This week's memory verse:**

*“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.” 1 John 3:16*

### **Monday**

Think of someone you're finding it hard to love right now. What has made it difficult for you to love?

Read 1 John 3:11-18. Write down one key truth you learned this weekend that you can apply to help your relationships.

Recall a time when you felt God's love for you even though you were turning away from Him. How did God's unconditional love for you help you and turn you back toward Him?

*Thank God today for His unconditional love for you. Talk to Him about the relationships where you are finding it difficult to love right now. Ask Him to give you His eyes and heart for the other person.*

### **Tuesday**

Read 1 John 3:11-15. What message has been taught “from the beginning”? How can such a simple message make such a difference?

Read Genesis 4:1-8. Why do you think John included the used the story of Cain and Abel as an illustration? Examine your heart today. Do you hate anyone? What is the impact of hate on your life?

Have you ever felt the truth of verse 13 in you life? Why do you think that living a life of love is a good reaction to the world's hate?

*Thank God today for His example of love. Talk to Him about any struggles you are having with hate. Ask Him to empower you to live a life of love in the face of hate. Pray that God will shine through you today in all your interactions.*

## **Wednesday**

Read 1 John 3:16. This verse is short but powerful. According to this verse who is our example when it comes to love and what example did He leave for us?

How does this type of love differ from romantic love? How does this type of love differ from what the world offers?

This type of love is difficult to have towards those you love much less those who you find difficult to love! Write down two ways you can demonstrate this type of love towards those around you this week:

- 1.
- 2.

*Thank God today for His love towards you demonstrated on the cross. Pray that God will increase your love and purify it daily so that you more and more demonstrate Christ-like love towards others.*

## **Thursday**

Read 1 John 3:17-18. These verses go right to the heart! What stands out to you most in these two verses?

Why is it easier to love in words than in actions?

Take inventory of your own heart and life. What is most difficult for you when it comes to living out these verses? When is the last time you passed up an opportunity to love like this? When is the last time you took the opportunity? What was the end result of each situation?

What changes will you make in your life to help ensure that you love others in this way?

*Thank God today for the strength He gives you. Ask Him for eyes to see the opportunities to love others that God gives you today. Pray that your heart will become more and more like God's heart.*

## **Friday**

Read Galatians 5:22 & 1 John 3:1. How does understanding 1 John 3:1 - how much God loves you - impact your love of others, even those who are hard to love?

According to Galatians 5:22 what are the life characteristics of someone who loves?

*Thank God today for His example of love. Pray that your life will be full of the "fruits" mentioned in Galatians 5:22. Ask God to soften your heart and increase your desire to love those around you.*

## **Saturday**

Take the time today to go over any devotions you may have missed and to complete your memorization of this week's verse. Pray for the ministry this weekend! Thanks!