

1 Jn Pt 4

15/03/26 pm

With Morgan

Love that prepares us for the table

1 John 3: 11 - 24

John gives a practical, timeless and unchangeable command in verse 11 "You are to love one another". If we trust Jesus Christ we will love those who have been bought by the same blood that redeemed us. (Jn 13:34-35) Love is not like Cain. The world will hate Christians (Jn 15) for the same reason Cain hated Able's righteousness. If we hate anyone especially a fellow Christian

we are subject to the same judgement as Cain the murderer. Hatred is a serious sin and a sure sign that the Love of God has not captured our hearts. But if we love other Christians it is a sign that God's love is in us and unites us with those who are in Christ.

Petty disagreements, conflicts and nit-picking should not be in the church. Church members are to love each other differently from the world. Where else would you find such diverse people living together in loving unity? The ultimate example of love is not "with words or speech but with actions and in truth" so "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 and sisters." (v16) Hate is the opposite of love. Murder is the opposite of self-sacrifice. Jesus is the opposite of Cain.

All the times we have failed to love and fallen short of the glory of God is a problem for us because God is a holy judge who cannot tolerate sin so sinners must pay with the second death. But because of God's great love, grace and mercy, he reconciled us to himself through his one and only delightful Son who added to himself human nature to live a sinless life in order to qualify himself to pay for all our many sins. We are spared the wrath of God by the One who bore it for us. The death of Jesus is the ultimate way God chose to show his love for us. "Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this; While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom 5:7-8) This free gift of love is on display at Calvary. Let us humble ourselves, come to Christ and he will forgive us.

The challenge is for us to lay down our lives in radical love for our brothers and sisters. Self-sacrificial love means giving up our time, energy, money and resources so that no one is in need. We also forgive and bear with one another. We are all sinners so life in church can be hard. Follow the example of self-sacrificial love of Jesus Christ as the evidence of our faith in Jesus that gives us confidence (v21) to we share the Lord's super in love and unity.

Our confidence is the belief in Jesus as the Son of God who died on the cross for our sin and rose again in power to save us from our sin when he returns to judge the living and the dead. Do we believe Jesus and love one another? If so, it is a sure sign that we are in him and he is in us. Come to the table in loving unity and complete confidence. Amen