

¹¹ For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning,¹
that we should love one another.²

¹² We should not be like Cain,
who was of the evil one
and murdered his brother.

And why did he murder him?³
Because his own deeds were evil
and his brother's righteous.

¹³ Do not be surprised, brothers,⁴
that the world hates you⁵.

¹⁴ We know
that we have passed out of death into life,
because we love the brothers.

Whoever
does not love
abides in death.

¹⁵ Everyone
who hates his brother
is a murderer,⁶
and you know
that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

¹⁶ By this we know love,
that He laid down His life for us,⁷
and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.⁸

¹⁷ But
if anyone has the world's goods
and sees his brother in need,
yet closes his heart against him,⁹
how does God's love abide in him?

¹⁸ Little children, let us not love
in word or talk
but in deed and in truth.

¹ 1 John 1:1, 5; 2:7ff.

² John 13:34-35, John 15:12, 17. Which is the greatest commandment? (Matt. 22:36ff., Lev. 19:18)

³ Review the Cain and Abel story in Gen. 4:1-8, but see Heb. 11:4 and John 3:19-20.

⁴ Quite often John has been referring to the recipients of this epistle as "little children," but here he refers to them as "brothers." What is the significance of this?

⁵ John 15:18-19, 25; 16:1ff.; 17:14 and 1 Peter 4:12ff.

⁶ Matt. 5:21-22, 27-28.

⁷ John 3:16, 10:11; Rom. 5:7; 1 Peter 3:18. Jesus' love is redeeming and life-giving, but because it gives us life, it also is a pattern or an example of how we too should live, Phil. 2:5-8 and 1 Peter 2:19-23.

⁸ John 15:13

⁹ Matt. 5:42.