

I. God’s desire is for us to love each other (v. 11)

“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself.” (Leviticus 19:18)

“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ” (Matthew 22:37-39)

II. Satan’s desire is for us to hate each other (v. 12-15)

A. We must reject the example of Cain

B. We must reject the influence of the evil one

C. We must reject the atmosphere of death

D. We must reject the sin of hatred

“At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.” (Titus 3:3)

E. We must reject the sin of murder

“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him.” (John 8:44)

III. We are to love others as Christ has loved us (v. 16-18)

A. Love is defined by Christ’s sacrificial death

“But demonstrated his own love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

B. We are to love others sacrificially

“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:4)

C. We are to love others through acts of compassion

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” (Galatians 6:10)

D. We are to love others through actions

E. We are to love others in the truth

IV. We are blessed with assurance as we love one another (v. 19-22)

A. We enjoy the assurance of peace

B. We enjoy confidence in prayer

V. Loving one another is not optional (v. 23-24)

A. It is essential that we believe in Jesus Christ

B. It is essential that we love one another

“This is my command: Love each other.” (John 15:17)

“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:35)

C. It is essential that we continue to obey God

D. It is essential that we remember that God lives in us

“And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.” (Romans 5:5)