**THE THIN LINE BETWEEN**

**LOVE AND HATE**

**1 John 3:11-24**

**THE BIG IDEA: True Christians are assured of their security in Christ and should love and serve one another faithfully.**

**CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ONE ANOTHER AS EVIDENCE THAT WE TRULY BELONG TO CHRIST**

* *“For this is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another, 12 unlike Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother’s were righteous. 13 Do not be surprised, brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers and sisters. The one who does not love remains in death. 15 Everyone who hates his brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.”* (1 John 3:11-15)
* **How we love one another is one of the prime evidences in our lives that we truly belong to Jesus.**
* Jesus - *“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”* (John 13:35)
* **Loving you neighbor as yourself is spoken of by Jesus as the second greatest command, not the second greatest “request.” (see Matthew 22:34-40)**

**CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ONE ANOTHER AS EVIDENCE THAT WE TRULY BELONG TO CHRIST**

* *“This is how we have come to know love: He laid down his life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has this world’s goods and sees a fellow believer in need but withholds compassion from him—how does God’s love reside in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in action and in truth.”* (1 John 3:16-18)
* **When God blesses us, it is not just for our self-enjoyment; God blesses us to be a blessing to others.**
* *“Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others.”* (Philippians 2:4)
* *“A generous person will be enriched, and the one who gives a drink of water will receive water.”* (Proverbs 11:25)
* *“Share with the saints in their needs; pursue hospitality.”* (Romans 12:13)
* **Serving others demonstrates that we are following Jesus’ example.**
* Jesus - *“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”* (Matthew 20:28)
* *“In every way I’ve shown you that it is necessary to help the weak by laboring like this and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, because he said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”* (Acts 20:35)

**CHRISTIANS ARE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ THAT GOD LOVES AND KEEPS US IN SPITE OF OUR SELF-CONDEMNING THOUGHTS**

* *“This is how we will know that we belong to the truth and will reassure our hearts before him 20 whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows all things. 21 Dear friends, if our hearts don’t condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive whatever we ask from him because we keep his commands and do what is pleasing in his sight. 23 Now this is his command: that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another as he commanded us. 24* *The one who keeps his commands remains in him, and he in him. And the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he has given us.” (1 John 3:11-24)*
* **Even the greatest of God’s people fall short of His standard, and yet He still loves them and uses them for His glory anyway.**
* **God’s word is filled with reassurance that if you are truly a “born again” Christ-follower, then your salvation is secure in Him without any possibility of that security in Him being invalidated, lost, or given back.**
* Jesus - *“My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”* (John 10:27-29)
* *“God’s gracious gifts and calling are irrevocable.”* (Romans 11:29)
* *“Now it is God who strengthens us together with you in Christ, and who has anointed us. 22 He has also put his seal on us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a down payment.”* (2 Corinthians 1:21-22)
* *“And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, 22 and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”* (2 Corinthians 1:21-22 ESV)
* **Because we live in sin ravaged bodies in a sin ravaged world, our hearts and minds can skew our thinking into believing God does not love us; BUT the Holy Spirit living in us assures us He does!**
* *“The one who keeps his commands remains in him, and he in him. And the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he has given us.” (1 John 3:24)*

**\*\*CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION ON BACK\*\***

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Ice Breaker:** “Who’s Your One” and how are you ministering to them?

* For those who are new(er) to Renew Church, we launched a focus on choosing one person in your life who is not a Christian (Family, Friend, Co-Worker, or Neighbor) to pray for daily by name, to find ways to serve them, and ultimately to share the Gospel of Jesus with them. If you don’t have a “One” choose someone today and begin the process.

**Start Thinking:**

* + What do you learn about God/Jesus from 1 John 3:11-24?
  + Why does John use Cain as an example of who not to be like?
  + Why does John say the will the world (non-Christians) hate us?
  + What are some things that demonstrate we truly are God’s children according to John?

**Digging Deeper:**

* + Why is it so important to Love and Serve your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ?
  + What does John mean when he refers to “laying down your life” for one another?
  + What are some ways you can truly demonstrate love and/or serve your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ?
  + How has this message impacted your understanding of the “assurance of your salvation” and God’s ability to keep you even when you fall short?
  + What are you going to do differently as a result of this message?