



“More Evidences of Genuine Salvation” (1 John 3:11-24) 2014

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Intro: You may get tired of me pointing this out in our study of I John, but once again I call your attention to the main motive behind the Holy Spirit’s inspiration of John’s pen in writing this little epistle. See I John 5:13. With that reminder, it should not surprise us that this next section continues to give us more very clear evidences of who the children of the devil are and who the children of God are. Do you remember last week’s three evidences of true children of God?

1. The right Jesus (Christ)
2. Purity of life
3. Can’t keep on sinning (lifestyle)

Read 3:10 for connection to today’s text.

vv.11-12 This is why Cain killed his brother. Abel was a saved man, and Cain was not. See Genesis 4:2b-7.

v.13 HATED BY THE WORLD See John 15:18-21, 25; Luke 24:25-27, 44; Psalm 35:19; 69:4, 9, 21.

- Includes religious people who are not saved
 - Acts 9:1 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out **murderous** threats against the Lord’s disciples.
 - It was a religious people that murdered the prophets, it was a religious people that plotted to put Jesus on the cross. Much of hell’s population will be comprised of religious people who never knew God.
 - See John 8:37-44a.
- Hated for no reason
 - If anyone ever did good in this world, it was Jesus (healed the sick, raised the dead, delivered from demons, etc.). Yet the world hated him. It will be the same with us.
 - Look how the world looks so favorably on all kinds of charitable causes, but if we attach Jesus Christ to a charitable cause, we are not received by the world.

- Hated because of righteousness
 - Romans 5:7 Very rarely will anyone die for a **righteous man**, though for a **good man** someone might possibly dare to die.
 - “The world does not hate “good” people; the world only hates “Christian” people; that is the subtle, vital distinction. If you are just a good person, the world, far from hating you, will admire you; it will cheer you.” (Lloyd-Jones, p.102).
- Hatred from diverse groups
 - See Matthew 22:15-17.
 - The Herodians & Pharisees joining forces was greater than the Democrats & Republicans coming together.
- It should not surprise us (John 15:18-21, 25).

Note: What’s the opposite of hate? Love.

v.14-20 LOVE

v.15 What about Moses & David? Their motive in murder was not hatred; the hatred referred to in our text is spiritual at its root, and is “for no reason.”

v.19 This is very practical. II Cor.13:5 Examine yourselves to see if you are in the faith...

Am I loving in practical, tangible ways?

- Priority is the family of God
 - Galatians 6:10...as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, **especially the family of believers.**
 - John 13:35 By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.
 - The abundance of Scripture on possessions/wealth (Luke 10:25-37; 12:13-21; 32-34; 16:11, 13, 19-31; 18:18-25; 19:1-9; 21:1-4).
 - Acts 20:35 in everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus said: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”
 - Ephesians 4:28 He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.
 - Deut.14:28-29; 24:19-21; 26:12-13; 27:19

- Note: There is a time we should not give to meet someone's need (II Thess.3:10; I Tim.5:9-10; James 4:3); I have as a pastor had to say no to people who were part of the church and yet would not order their financial affairs according to the Word of God. I distinctly remember one lady whose family we helped a lot, but over time and many counseling sessions we discovered that she was renting things were not only costing her far too much, but she had no real need for. The hardest part of that situation was that her kids were suffering for her foolish actions.
- Practical Ways To Prove Genuineness
 - Corporate giving (Acts 4:34-35; 11:27-30; Gal.2:10; I Cor.16:1-4; II Cor.8:16-19; 9:10-13).
 - Good Samaritan giving (Luke 10:25-37).
 - Giving through church relationships. How many of you have been the recipient of some kind of gift that helped you in a time of need simply because you got plugged in relationally in the church? How many of you have been able to give to someone in the church who had a need because you have a relationship with them through ministry together or some type of small group)?
 - Loving a world that hates us.
 - Verse 16, when did Jesus lay down his life for us?
 - Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
 - II Kings 6:8-23; Rom.12:17-21; Luke 6: 22-26, 27-28.
 - I Peter 4:19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator **and continue to do good.**
 - Our church outreach ministries reach out without discrimination. May the Lord increase our outreach efforts and opportunities. Personally, may we make the most of every opportunity for Good Samaritan giving that the Lord lays along our personal path in life. And may we become relational in the church so that we may have opportunities to reach out to brothers and sisters in need, as well as receive from brothers and sisters when we are in need. Jesus may be wanting to help you, but until you get connected properly in His body, he can't.

vv.21-24a ANSWERED PRAYER

- What's the last prayer you've had answered? If we are not living this stuff out, not only should we question our salvation, but we should not expect to get our prayers answered.

v.24b THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Romans 8:15-16...you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our Spirit that we are God's children.

Galatians 4:6 Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

If we indeed possess the Holy Spirit within us, we will respond to this Word with a fresh zeal to love in very practical, tangible ways.

CONCLUSION

- There is the story of the pastor who went before the congregation and said, "I've got good news and I've got bad news. The good news is we have enough money as a church to help out every needy person in our church family. The bad news is it's still out there in your pockets."
- Once a preacher went to visit a farmer. The preacher said to the farmer, "Say, if you had two hundred dollars, would you give one hundred to the Lord?" The farmer said, "I would." The preacher then said, "If you had two cows, would you give one of them to the Lord?" The farmer said, "I would." The preacher then said, "If you had two pigs, would you give one of them to the Lord?" The farmer said, "Now that ain't fair preacher, you know I got two pigs."