

**Accept No Imitations (part 2)**  
**1 John 3:11-18**

1. The Call to a Perfect Love (11-12).

a. The Clarification of our Call.

<sup>11</sup> For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

b. The Counterfeit of our Call (c.f. 1 Cor. 13).

<sup>12</sup> We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.

- origin- anything other than love is a work of Satan
- outworking- ill-will
- object- hide his own sin (hatred is often misplaced)

2. The Cause for a Perfect Love (13-15).

a. Cause 1: Refuge

<sup>13</sup> Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.

def. of hate= to employ a persecuting or malicious spirit.

love less

seen as a response to injury (real or perceived) (Gen 27:41)

seen in the disobedient toward God (Deut 7:10)

seen in the righteous in response to the unrighteous (people or deeds)(Ps. 139:21)

seen in the unrighteous toward the righteous (Psalm 34:21)

often masked in deceit (Proverbs 26:24)

attitude of the foolish toward correction (Prov. 12:1)

the parent who refuses to discipline (Prov. 13:24)

the Lord toward the unrighteous (people and deeds) (Ps. 11:5)

- b. Cause 2: Reality Check- Are you in fellowship with God?

We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. <sup>15</sup> Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

New Nature- Are you characterized by sacrificial care of others?

This is endemic to your new nature

Love is evidence of your Salvation

Lack of love is evidence of your carnality.

Nurture- Are you harboring hatred for a brother.

Equivalence: to hate is to be a murderer

Evaluation: you do not have the life of Christ abiding in you

3. The Conduct of a Perfect Love (16-18).

- a. The Model for our Conduct.

<sup>16</sup> By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

- b. The Method of our Conduct.

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

help

heart

- c. The Motive for our Conduct.

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