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What Are You Marked By?

1 John 3:11-18

I. Cain Was Marked With Hate

A. Hate leads to the **murder** of others (v. 12)

1. Cain _____ Abel (Gen. 4:1-8)
2. Cain was of the _____ one (Eph. 2:1-3; Jms. 4:1-2)
3. Cain's _____ were evil (Psa. 38:20; Prov. 29:10)

B. Hate leads to the **death** of yourself (vv. 14-15)

1. Hate = _____ (v. 14c) [Matt. 5:21-22]
2. Hate = _____ (v. 15a) [1 Jn. 2:9; Jms. 4:1-2]
3. Hate = no eternal **life** (v. 15b) [Rev. 21:8]

II. Christ Was Marked With Love

A. Love is **commanded** of you (v. 11)

1. _____ been there (Jn. 13:34; Deut. 6:5)
2. Always involves _____ (Lev. 19:18; Phil. 2:3-4)

B. Love **transforms** you (vv. 13-14)

1. The kind of love the world _____ (v. 13) [Jn. 15:18-19; 1 Pet. 4:12]
2. The kind of love that _____ you (v. 14a-b) [1 Jn. 4:20-21]

C. Love was **demonstrated** for you (v. 16)

1. _____ sacrifice (v. 16a) [Rom. 5:8; Jn. 15:13]
2. _____ sacrifice (v. 16b) [Rom. 12:10]

D. Love is **expected** of you (vv. 17-18)

1. Love is _____ (v. 17) [Jms. 2:15-17]
2. Love is _____ (v. 18a) [Jms. 1:22; Jn. 14:15]
3. Love is _____ (v. 18b) [Jn. 14:6]

TAKE HOME

- What are you **marked** by? Love or Hate?
- Are you more like Cain or more like **Christ**?
- How can you **apply** what you have learned in your small group?

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at placeritachurch.com.

1. Read 1 John 3:11-12. What is going on in this passage? Now look at Genesis 4:1-8. Discuss the insights you gained from studying this passage. What did you see here that maybe you didn’t see before?

2. Read Eph. 2:1-3 and Jms. 4:1-2. How do these two passages show us that maybe we were (and sometimes are) more like Cain than we thought?

3. Read 1 John 3:14-15. How did we pass from death to life? How does living in hate lead to death? (Matt. 5:21-22; 1 Jn. 2:9)

4. Read 1 John 3:11. Where else do we see this same message in the Bible? (Deut. 6:5; Lev. 19:18; Jn 13:34-35) Why is it repeated here?

5. Read 1 John 3:13-14. Why does the world hate this kind of love? (Jn. 15:18-19; 1 Pet. 4:12) How can this kind of love mark a true Christian? (1 Jn. 4:20-21)

6. Read 1 John 3:16. How does this verse point us to the gospel? (Rom. 5:8; Jn. 15:13) How does looking at that kind of love help you love better today?

7. Read 1 John 3:17-18. How is love described in these two verses? How can you demonstrate your love to others (Jms. 2:15-17; 1:22-25; Jn. 14:15; Jn. 14:6)

8. Read the take home questions. Which one challenged you or encouraged you the most? Why? How can you live your life differently based on what you have learned in this passage?

“This passage reveals the mark that Jesus gives to label a Christian—not just in one era or in one locality—but at all times and all places until Jesus returns.”

- Francis Shaeffer, *The Mark of a Christian*