

Truth & Love in 1 John

Wednesday Morning Bible Study Week 6
Our Savior Lutheran Church and School, Lansing, MI

A Lesson on Love and Hate (3:11-12)

1 John 3:11 “This is the message you heard from the beginning...” (note 1:5)

The account of Cain and Abel is found in Genesis 4. Abel brought an offering to the Lord from his flocks, and Cain brought an offering from the field. God looked with favor on Abel’s offering but on Cain’s He did not. And so Cain was angry and downcast, and plotted to kill his brother. When God asked Cain where Abel was, Cain replied, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” And God brought a punishment on Cain that was too much for him to bear, yet God showed grace to Cain and allowed him to live with God’s protection.

The next series of addresses with instructions include

My brothers, do not be surprised...

Dear children, let us not...

Dear friends, if our hearts do not...

Dear friends, do not believe...

You, dear children, are from God...

Dear friends, let us love...

Why does the world hate us (Jesus followers?)

The world hated Jesus first – **John 15:18-25**

The world’s hatred of Christians should _____ us but not _____ us.

Light = Love = Life

Darkness = Hate = Death

What does love look like? 3:16-18

Putting our hearts at rest in His presence 3:19-20

Asking for anything in prayer 21-22

What is God's command? (instruction) 3:23

To _____ in the One He has sent, and

To _____ one another as He commanded us.

The word "believe" appears in several verses in the Gospels:

Matthew (9), Mark (15), Luke (10), and John (84)

LSB 166 the Post-Communion Collect (Wittenberg 1526 Luther's German Mass)

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The vertical and horizontal aspects of the Christian life

Toward God (corem Deo)

Toward our Neighbor (corem mundo)

"We love because He first loved us!" 1 John 4:19

Feel free to email with questions, insights, or God-sightings: pastorw@oursaviorlansing.org.