

## HOW TO BE OR NOT TO BE WALKING IN THE LIGHT 5

### 1 John 3:11-24

*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this will all people know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:34-36).*

According to Jesus Christ the primary way to demonstrate our Christian faith to the world is to love other followers of Jesus Christ.

### I. HOW \_\_\_\_\_ TO BE. V. 11-15

*11 This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. 12 Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. 13 Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. 15 Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.*

*6 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it." Genesis 4:6-7*

Our capacity to love each other reveals the fact that we've truly come out of the spiritual darkness and hatred of the world, the hatred of Cain, and that we've truly come to faith in Jesus Christ, the life evidenced by Abel, a life of obedience and love. When we give in to the spirit of Cain and demonstrate what we believe with hatred and anger, we demonstrate to our world how much we're really the same.

### II. HOW TO \_\_\_\_\_ . V. 16-18

*16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.*

What does this love look like? Jesus.

The word translated “laid down” carries the picture of someone taking off a garment and laying down, that Christ took off his life willingly, and laid it down.

### III. HOW TO \_\_\_\_\_ . V. 19-24

*19 This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence 20 whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. 24 Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.*

All of us go through times of doubt in the spiritual journey, seasons where it seems like we don't really know God like we thought we did. If you've struggled with those kinds of doubts, that's probably a pretty good indication that you are following Jesus, because people who don't follow Jesus Christ really aren't all that concerned about it. John says to believe or put your trust in Jesus and to love each other. Plus God had given us the Holy Spirit.