

Don't Be Surprised  
1 John 3 - Part 4  
08/14/2022

*1 John 3:11-24 (ESV) For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 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. Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 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? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.*

**To Keep From Being Surprised:**

1st) Stay with the **BASICS**.

*1 John 3:11 (ESV) For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.*

- People that were very much unlike Jesus really liked Jesus
- Jesus really liked the people that were very much unlike him
- Make God seem distant and disconnected
- How to connect to God
- Jesus comes and reflects the heart of God to the world
- You and I could have a personal connection to God
- Always think of God as a good Father and you are his child
- This way of thinking was very relational
- A living connection
- A transfer of life from one to another
- Love one another
- So the love of Jesus changed John's heart to love others
- You can only love to the degree from which you've been loved
- You can only forgive to the degree you've been forgiven

2nd) Don't Be Like **CAIN**.

*1 John 3:12 (ESV) 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.*

- John is setting us up.
- I'm ok, I'd never kill my brother. I'm way better than that

*1 John 3:15 (ESV) Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer,*

- You ever hate anyone?
- You ever try to murder a person's reputation by talking bad about them?
- Are you good at dropping a hint of doubt into a conversation to make someone think less of someone else?
- Where did he come up with this?

*Matt. 5:21-22 (NIV) "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.*

- He points them to Jesus

*1 John 2:1b (ESV) But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

- The starting point in resolving conflict with anyone is to pause and pray, "God, help me to take the first step toward resolving this conflict."
- Conflict with others won't resolve itself.

3rd) Do the proper **WORK**.

*1 John 3:16-17 (ESV) By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 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?*

*Frederick Buechner - We are above all else loved - that is the good news of the Gospel...to come together as people who believe that just maybe this Gospel is actually true should be to come together like people who have just won the lotto.*

- Your mission Jim should you decide to accept it.
- Your mission is a continuance of Jesus' mission on earth.

4th) Listen to the **WHISPERS**.

*1 John:20 (ESV) for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;*

- Learn to listen