

IT'S REAL—8

It's REAL because it SHARES love for the brethren"

1 John 3:10-24

Introduction. _____

This is only time in the Epistle John mentions any OT characters. It forms the best illustration on how the Christian is NOT to act in relation to his brothers and sisters in Christ:

I. FIRST, NOTICE THREE CHARACTER FEATURES OR TRAITS OF CAIN THAT IDENTIFIES THE OPPOSITE OF LOVE (3:11-18).

- A. First, notice the ultimate act of murder (3:11-12).
- B. Secondly, note the inward attribute of hatred (3:13-14).

For the same reasons Christians are hated:

- 1. First, note it is because of the way the Christian behaves.
- 2. Secondly, notice it is because of the gospel the Christians believes.
- 3. Thirdly, consider also, because of the Christian's future benefits.

INSERT: There are some issues that need clearing up here in order to understand the murder of Abel and how it might relate to which they lived:

- 1. **First, it needs to be understood that Cain didn't kill Abel after the first time they had offered a sacrifice.**
- 2. **Secondly, it needs to be understood that Cain didn't get an unfair and unfavorable treatment.**
- 3. **Thirdly, it needs to be pointed out that God graciously and clearly warned Cain of his growing rebellious heart.**

C. Thirdly, consider the outward action of indifference (3:17-18).

II. SECONDLY, NOTE THREE CHARACTER OR TRAITS OF LOVE THE PROVIDE PERSONAL CONFIDENCE.

- A. First, love _____ us to know that we are in the truth (3:19-20).
 - 1. First, there must be _____ in respect to truth (3:19a) *"And hereby, we know that we are in the truth . . ."*
 - 2. Secondly, there must be _____ in reference to truth (3:20). *"For if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our heart . . ."*
- B. Secondly, love _____ one to know the power of prayer (3:21-22).
- C. Thirdly, love _____ one to know that he is abiding in Christ (3:23-34).
 - 1. First, *"abiding in Christ,"* _____ with faith in Him (3:23a).
 - 2. Secondly, *"abiding in Christ,"* _____ with loving other Christians (3:23b).
 - 3. Thirdly, *"abiding in Christ,"* is _____ upon commandment keeping."
 - 4. Fourthly, *"abiding in Christ,"* is _____ by the indwelling Holy Spirit (4:24b).

CONCLUSION: Chuck Swindoll gives us three thoughts in response to this section of Scripture that helps us KNOW and have ASSURANCE:

- 1. **First, when your conscience _____ you, look _____ and _____ why.**
- 2. **Secondly, when your spirit or heart _____ you, look _____ and _____ why.**
- 3. **Thirdly, when the Holy Spirit _____ you, look _____ and _____ why.**