



**Fall 2020 Theme: Love for One Another**  
**Unit III: Godly Love among Believers**

**Lesson Titles:**  
**Loving Others**  
 (Faith Pathway Bible Studies)  
**Confident Love**  
 (Townsend Press Sunday School  
 Commentary)

## LESSON 11 • November 15, 2020

**Fall 2020 Theme: Love for One Another**  
**Unit III: Godly Love among Believers**

**Background Scriptures:** 1 John 3:11-24; 2 John 4-11;  
 3 John 5-8

**Print Passage:** 1 John 3:11-24

### Key Verse(s):

He that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

(1 John 3:24, KJV)

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The one who keeps God's commands lives 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. (1 John 3:24, NIV)

### Questions to Consider:

1. What does John say about loving one another?
2. What were the challenges facing the church that Apostle John addressed?

### Lesson Aims:

- As a result of experiencing this lesson, you should be able to do these things:
- Explore the many dimensions of loving others according to 1 John 3.
- Embrace God's commandments to love with obedience and expectation.
- Identify ways to grow in your faith in Jesus and your love for others.

### Lesson Context:

- John is writing to heal the wounds of a broken and divided community of faith, a community divided over doctrinal beliefs and practices.
- False teachers arose who denied Christ's deity – denying the incarnation of Christ and professed other false ideas and ideologies. John wrote to correct their serious errors.
- John addressed three specific topics throughout his letter – love, obedience and truth. In this week's lesson, he returned to the topic of love for the brethren (others) that he had introduced in 1 John 2:7-11.

### Lesson Outlines/Key Points:

#### I. Love: The Evidence Test (1 John 3:11-15)

- Those who continuously harbor hateful attitudes and murderous thoughts give evidence of an unregenerate heart—and unless they repent they will suffer eternal punishment.
- The authentic identifying mark of a Christian is love.

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**II. Love Demonstrated (1 John 3:16-18)**

- Love is an identifying mark or brand of believers. Love is demonstrated, is **selfless**, and sacrificial.
- John emphasizes that practical love is more than **words** and that it is the willingness to help others.

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**III. Love Produces Confidence (1 John 3:19-24)**

- God knows our **heart**. He knows all things. He knows our motives as well as our actions.

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**Lesson Summary:**

- Loving others is the “**brand**” of the Christian life. It is the fundamental virtue that distinguishes the children of God from the children of Satan.
- Love for others is the missing **virtue** in the world at-large. As believers, we need to make sure that we are setting the example Christ left by letting the lost “see” our love for one another through compassionate, self-sacrificing deeds.

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**What do you think? (These questions are found in this week’s Faith Pathway student book.)**

1. What is the relationship between “settled hate” against another and actual physical murder?

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2. According to 1 John 3:11-18, how can you recognize God’s children?

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3. What assurance is given to those of us who may condemn our- selves for failing to live up to God’s standards?

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**As a result of this lesson, I will do the following:**

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