

## “Children of the Devil”

preached by Bro. Mahlon T. LeCroix on 11/21/2021

Series Title: “Real Love, Real Life, Real Faith; a Study of 1John” Main Passage: **1John 3:10-18**

Opened with a discussion about Adam and Eve’s first two sons: **Cain** and **Abel**. (ref Gen. 4:1-15)

- Cain is compared to two other evil men in Jude, **Balaam** and **Korah**. (ref: Jude 11)
- Hebrews tells us Cain killed his brother Abel because of his **offering** and the faith in which it was given. (ref: Heb. 11:4)
- God marked **Cain** so all would recognize him. The Apostle John gives us the “marks” of those who are children of the Devil as opposed to those who belong to God.

### 1) Marks/identifiers of those who are Children of the **Devil**.

- As discussed last week, growth in righteousness is a clear identifier of children of God, but John will turn his focus from righteousness to **love** in our passage today. (vs. 10-11)
- Like growth/practice of righteousness, **love** is not optional for believers. (ref: John 13:35)

#### a) Children of the Devil are marked by **murder**. (vs 12)

- The **Devil** has always been a murderer from the beginning, and those who follow him are too. (ref: John 8:44, 10:10)
- **Cain** also lied to God when asked about his brother, which is the native language of his father, the Devil, who is the father of lies.

#### b) Children of the Devil are marked by their **hate**. (vs 13-15)

- John points his readers to the heart behind **murder**, which is having anger and hatred toward others. (ref: Matt. 5:21-22;
- Children of God are **hated** by those of the world/Satan because they live different. Being light and salt causes the **sins** (evil deeds) of this world to be seen/exposed through contrast. (ref: John 3:19-20; 1Peter 4:3-4)
- Do not miss the fact that **Cain** was not an atheist. He believed in God and offered a sacrifice, but he followed on his terms and not God’s.

#### c) Children of the Devil are marked by their **indifference**. (vs 16-18)

- John continues to dive deeper into the heart of murder and hate, by pointing to **indifference**. If you have the ability to help, but refuse to help someone you know is in need, that is **hate**. (ref: James 2:14-17)
- True/authentic **love** requires action and will cost us something. (ref: John 3:16, 15:13)
- Scripture is clear we are to love everyone, including our enemies, but this particular passage today makes it clear a child of **God** will sacrificially love their fellow brothers and sisters in the faith. (ref: Phil. 2:3-4; Gal. 6:10)
- Prior to 1990 the average “Christian” used to attend a church gathering (Sunday School, Wednesday, Sunday morning/night, Revival, Bible Study, etc) 3 times a week. Now the average “Christian” attends a gathering 3 times a month. That is only **36** times a year. That was prior to 2020/COVID, which numbers have obviously grown worse. The love of the world vs the love of our brothers/sisters is clearly seen.

In closing...

- John gives marks/identifiers of children of the **Devil** in a descending order beginning with murder, hate, and indifference.
- A child of God should not bare the marks of the children of the Devil, but a child of God should be known by their sacrificial **love** for one another.