

Actions speak louder than words (I John 3:11-24)

Introduction

- What is love all about, according to v18?
- What is one of the main reasons why John is writing?
- What did v10 teach are the two types of person in the world?

i Love and hatred (v11-15)

- What is v11's basic, foundational, commandment?
- What does v12 teach us about hatred, the very opposite of love?
- What is the world's attitude to Christians always likely to be (v13)?
- Why is hatred like murder (v14-15)?
- Can repentant murderers be saved?
- What is the test John is applying here, then?
- How searching is God's knowledge?
- Is there someone in the world you hate?
- What do you need to do if so?
- How can you help yourself to do that?

ii Love and deed (v16-18)

- What does the cross teach us about the nature of love (v16)?
- Do you trust in Jesus?
- What is incredibly challenging about the end of v16?
- What (and this may be even more challenging) does v17 demand of us?
- How does v18 sum everything up?
- What will this sort of love impact in our lives?
- When did you last show a costly love for someone?
- What do you need to do if you feel less than loving?

iii Love and assurance (v19-24)

- What does v19's "this then" refer back to?
- What, then, is the connection between love and assurance (v19-20)?
- When do we especially need this?
- What is the Spirit's role in all of this (v23-24)?
- What blessing flows from our assurance, according to v21-22?
- Why is John not promising that God will always answer prayers exactly as we want here?
- What attitude should we take to our praying?