

Be Sure to Love Each Other

1 John 3.11-24

Humanity's two camps v10

children of God; children of devil

two fundamental natures v9; 5.19

two contrasting lifestyles vs7,4

two kinds of spiritual awareness v6

two spiritual states: alive, dead v14

Two key tests: moral and social v10

2.3,9-10

1. Being a Christian carries

Social Obligations, vs 11,23

a single command with two parts v23

believe in Jesus, love his people

John 6.29; 13.34-35; Gal 5.6

➤ **a neglected emphasis? v11**

➤ **a selfish society:**

What's in it for me?

2. People live according to their fundamental nature, vs 12-18

- **Cain: child of devil, life of hatred**
 - **he belonged to the evil one v12**
 - **he murdered his brother**
 - **his actions were evil Gen 4.2-8**

God looks at the heart 1 Sam 16.7
2 Cor 9.7; Heb 11.4

God called for a change Gen 4.6-7

- **Christ: Son of God, life of love**
 - **true love is sacrificial v16**
John 15.12; Rom 5.8
we lay aside our own things
for the sake of others
 - **true love is compassionate v17**
not indifferent
 - **true love is active v18**
more than warm words
or good intentions
James 2.15-16

- **Alive, or still dead? v14**
born dead to God Eph 2.1;
made alive to God Eph 2.5
our love for our fellow Christians
is inspired by God's Spirit in us

3. Our Confidence before God, v19-22

- **A clear conscience v21**
sin confessed and forgiven 1.9
- **A troubled conscience v20**
God knows our hearts
- **A consistent life v22**
of obedience to God
the key to answered prayer
- **Our grounds for assurance v24**
the presence of God's Spirit
transforming our lives v14