

SERIES TITLE: DEEPER

PART EIGHT: DEEP LOVE

TEXT: 1 JOHN 3:11-24

INTRODUCTION.

The series' theme comes from 1 John 2:24, "If what you heard from the beginning lives deeply in you, you will live deeply in both Son and Father." [The Message] We all want to be deep. We want something lasting, substantive, and profound. This study of 1 John calls us to deeply root ourselves in Jesus, in order to thrive in a fallen world.

DISCUSSION.

How does our culture define love?

EXAMINATION.

3:11-15

- Which "beginning" do you think John is referring to? Creation? The arrival of Jesus?
- How does the motivation for Cain murdering his brother apply to how the world treats followers of Jesus?
- How can John make such a severe statement about someone failing to love remaining in death?

3:16-24

- How does John define love?
- Why do you think John only refers to loving "our brothers" and not loving a wider circle?
- Who is our brother?
- What are the results when Christians love each other?
- If we fail to love all of our brothers all of the time, what should we do? Is there anything in John's letter that gives us hope?

APPLICATION.

- Martin Lloyd Jones writes: “To love those whom we do not like means we treat them as if we did like them.” How does that relate to this Scripture?
- What type of relationship or individual do you find difficult to love and why?
- If it is possible to give material possessions and not love, how do you guard against that?
- Discuss the idea that “love is something you give, not something you feel.” How did God demonstrate that for us?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?