**This is the Message**

*1 Jn 3:11-24*

**I. Love One Another, not like Cain, vv. 11-12** (cf. Genesis 4:1-14)

**1 John 3:11-12**—*For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, not as Cain…*

A. Disobeying God’s Instruction

**1 John 3:12**—*…and for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother’s were righteous.*

**Hebrews 11:4**—*By faith, Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.*

**Genesis 4:5**—…*but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.*

**Genesis 4:6-7**—*Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? “If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”*

B. Resisting Correction

**Proverbs 10:8**­—*The wise of heart will receive commands, but a babbling fool will be ruined.*

**Proverbs 12:15** —*The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man is he who listens to counsel.*

**Proverbs 15:5**— *A fool rejects his father’s discipline, but he who regards reproof is sensible.*

C. Pursuing Violence

**Genesis 4:8**—*…and it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.*

D. Playing the Victim

**Genesis 4:13**—*Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is too great to bear!”*

**II. Love Lays Down its Life**

A. Follow His Example, **vv. 13-16**

**1 John 3:14**—*We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.*

**Romans 6:11-14**—*Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*

B. Demonstrated through Actions, **vv. 17-18**

**1 John 3:17**—*But whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?*

**1 John 3:18**— *Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.*

C. Confidence before God, **vv. 19 - 22**

**1 John 3:19-21**—*We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;*

**III. Love Requires His Spirit**

**1 John 3:24**—*The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.*