

Problem:

we don't seem to have a problem murdering each other in the church
we also don't seem to have a problem outright hating each other in the church
we do however have a problem ignoring each other in the church

apathy is un-christian - Rev 2:1-5 - and it kills assurance
it is the opposite of love and proceeds out of the same heart as hatred and murder

Main Idea:

Love is what we are to be aiming at
Love is what we are to be assured by
Love is what we are to be acting out

Implication: Gen 4:1-9

apathy is unchristian - your brother or sister in the Lord is the holiest object presented to your senses

you are your brother's keeper and you bear the weight of their future glory.

"It may be possible for each to think too much of his own potential glory hereafter; it is hardly possible for him to think too often or too deeply about that of his brother. The load, or weight, or burden of my brother's glory should be laid daily on my back, a load so heavy that only humility can carry it, and the backs of the proud will be broken. ...

"It is in light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations -- these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit.

— C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

Application:

let love be genuine - Rom 12:9-11; James 1:22-25; 2:14-17; 1 Cor 13

Text:

Love is what we are to be aiming at

1John 3:11 ¶ For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that **we should love one another**.

1John 3:12 **We should not be like Cain**, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.

(11) the message from the beginning - 1 Jn 2:7-11 - new love

(11) For - we should love one another - why? - 1 Jn 3:9-10 - new heart, new aim

(12) why did he murder him? he was not a believer and abel was- Heb 11:4

just like his master Satan - Jn 8:44-

exposed by the light- Jn 3:19-21 -> Eph 5:8-13

Love is what we are to be assured by

1John 3:13 Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.

1John 3:14 **We know (perfect) that we have passed out of death into life (perfect), because we love the brothers (present).** Whoever does not love abides in death.

1John 3:15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

(13) *The world hates you - 17:14; 15:18-21 - hatred is the mark of the world -> Titus 3:3
hatred is from the same heart as murder - Matt 5:21-24*

(14) *we know - Jn 13:34-35 - Love is the mark of the church*

(15) *eternal life abiding - we have passed from death to life- Jn 5:24*

Love is what we are to be acting out

1John 3:16 ¶ By this we know love (perfect), that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

1John 3:17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him (apathy=hatred=murder), how does God's love abide in him?

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

(16) *by this we know love -Cain or Christ*

- 1 Jn 3:12 murder=slaughter like in animal sacrifice - Rev 6:4, 9, 12

(16) *we ought - 1 Pet 2:21- example*

-either i sacrifice myself for you or I sacrifice you for me

Implication: (17) closes his heart- Gen 4:1-9 (am I my brother's keeper) —>

the opposite of love went from murder to hatred to apathy - apathy is unchristian

-in a sense - your brother or sister in the Lord is the holiest object presented to your senses.

Application: (18) deed and truth - Rom 12:9-11 - let love be genuine

works of love not words of love -James 1:22-25; 2:14-17 -dont deceive yourself

what does genuine love look like? 1 Cor 13