



## PART 4: A GAME CHANGING MESSAGE

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### Sermon Notes

**Text: 1 John 3:11-18**

#### Intro:

Video Testimony: Andrea & Josh Garriott

Jesus changes the game in how we relate to each other.

1 John 3:11-18

#### A Game Changing Message (v. 11)

John 13:34-35

If your beliefs don't lead you to love people, they're not Christian beliefs

#### The Negative Example of Cain (v. 12-15)

Genesis 4:9; 6:5

The surest sign that someone's Christianity is fake is that they don't love people.

#### The Positive Example of Jesus (v. 16)

Romans 5:8

1. God loves all humankind
2. The way God demonstrates love to humankind is through personal sacrifice
3. It is impossible to please God without loving the people he loves
4. Humans must demonstrate their love for one another through personal sacrifice

*The Rise of Christianity*, Rodney Stark (the loving Christian response to two deadly epidemics)

"It is our care of the helpless, our practice of loving kindness that brands us in the eyes of many of our opponents. 'Only look,' they say, 'look how they love one another!'" ~Tertullian (155-240AD)

Yes, you are your brother's keeper

#### The Practical Outworking (v. 17-18)

It's ok to have material possessions, but it's not ok to not share them with those that don't.

#### Conclusion:

## Life Group Discussion

### Warm up:

1. What stood out to you about Sunday's message?
2. When you think of the relationships you have with people who share your faith, how are they different than with people who don't share your faith?

### Study & Discussion:

1. Read 1 John 4:7-12. How does this passage re-emphasize the point John makes in our sermon text (1 John 3:11-18)? How do explain it when non-Christians are just as kind and loving as Christians?
2. Read Genesis 4:1-10. What stands out to you about this story? What was Cain so upset about? What does it mean to be someone's "keeper" (v. 9). How much responsibility should we take over the lives of others?
3. Consider the example of Christian love during the epidemics of 165 & 251AD. While pagans would abandon their family members at first sign of sickness, Christians stayed to care for them, often getting sick as a result. These actions stood out as a stark contrast at that time. Does Christian love stand out the same way today? Why or why not? What should our love look like?

### Application:

1. Is there a person to whom, or a situation in which you can step in to share the love of Jesus this week?

### Prayer:

- Pray for opportunities to share the love of Jesus with someone.

### Other Requests

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