BOOK OF 1 JOHN
Lesson #9 - The Imperative of Love
Scripture Reading: 1 John 3:10-15

Introduction:
1. The greatest spiritual gift we have is love -1Co 13:1-ff
2. We must love one another to have life abiding in us.
3. Why is this love so imperative?
4. Without love we are...

I. CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL - vs. 10
A. WE ARE EITHER CHILDREN OF GOD OR OF THE DEVIL
B. THE DEEDS OF THE DEVIL - Jn 8:44
   1. He was a murderer from the beginning
   2. He is the father of lies

II. DISOBEDIENT TO JESUS - vs. 11
A. THE NEW COMMANDMENT - Jn 13:34, 35
   1. Jesus commanded His disciples to love one another
   2. By our love others will know we are His
B. LOVING JESUS IS MOTIVATION FOR OBEDIENCE - Jn 14:15

III. IMITATING CAIN
A. CAIN MURDERED HIS BROTHER ABEL - Ge 4:1-15
B. HIS MOTIVATION
   1. He was jealous of his brother
   2. His deeds were evil, while his brother’s were righteous

IV. IMITATING THE WORLD
A. EVIL MEN NATURALLY HATE THE RIGHTEOUS
B. WE HAVE RECEIVED WARNING FROM THE WORD
   1. Warning from Jesus - Jn 15:18, 19, 25; 16:1-4; 17:14
   2. Peter’s warning - 1Pe 4:12-ff
   3. Those in darkness hate the light - Jn 3:19-21

V. FORGETFUL OF PASSING FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT
A. WE HAVE INDEED PASSED
   1. Peter’s words - 1Pe 2:9, 10
   2. Paul’s mission - Ac 26:17, 18
   3. Paul’s words - Co 1:13, 14
B. FAILURE TO LOVE OUR BROTHER IS TO ABIDE IN DEATH

VI. A MURDERER
A. HATE EQUALS MURDER - Cf. Mt 5:21-23
   1. One does not have to physically kill another to be guilty of murder.
   2. Murder, as Jesus teaches, begins in the heart - Cf. Mt 15:18-20

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B. ONE CANNOT FOLLOW GOD WITH HATE IN HIS HEART
   1. God is love -1Jn 4:8
   2. We cannot claim to love God while hating our brother -1Jn 4:19, 20

VII. WITHOUT ETERNAL LIFE
A. THEY WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD -Ga 5:19-21
B. THEY HAVE THEIR PART IN THE LAKE OF FIRE -Re 21:8

Conclusion:
1. The positive side of having love in our heart for our brethren is that we are displaying the characteristics of God -1Jn 4:8
2. Second, others will truly know that we are His disciples by our love for one another.