***In Times Like These - James, Peter, John, Jude***

**Lesson 19**

**The Imperative of Love**

Read I John 3:10-24.

 Memory Work: I John 3:16 (more if you are able)

 1. What separates the children of God from the children of the devil?

 2.a. From I John 3:10-15, compare Cain with Abel. See Genesis 4:3-8.

 b. Now compare the World versus Christians. Are the comparisons similar to those between Cain and

 Abel? In what way? For help, read John 3:18-21.

 c. What we have heard from the beginning? I John 3:11.

 d. Why did Cain kill Abel? I John 3:12.

 e. Compare righteous acts and those of hatred. Galatians 5:19-21.

 f. How serious is it to hate your brother? I John 3:14,15.

 g. How does Jesus shed light on this subject? See Matthew 15:10,11. So what needs to be controlled?

 h. Moses and David both murdered and yet God used both men. Can you reconcile I John 3:13-15 with

 Moses’ and David’s lives?

 3. Why should we not be surprised if the World hates us believers? Matthew 10:22

 4.a. According to I John 3:16, whose example do we have to follow. . .how would you explain this

 practically?

b. Why is it so crucial to meet the material needs of people and not just say that you’re praying for them, according to verses 17,18.

 c. What does it mean to “shut up your heart?” Verse 17.

 d. Can a Christian “shut up his heart”. . .with what consequences? Why would a person do this?

 e. In any event, this proves love is an a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ word.

 5.a. If you think a brother’s material needs are due to his irresponsibility, what should you do?

 II Thessalonians 3:6-15.

 b. Who might you reach out to today?

Evaluate Can our beliefs, priorities, fears or early training make us more prone to hate? What should you do if you find yourself in this mode. . .what resources do we have as Christians?

 6.a. If our hearts condemn us (perhaps for not living up to these verses), what comfort do we find in verse

 20?

 b. What should we do if our hearts condemn us?

 c. Who, also, might be condemning us?

 d. If our hearts do not condemn us, what do we have in verse 21?

 7. For a believer, are there any conditions we must meet to obtain the promise of answered prayer?

 Verse 22; Psalm 66:18.

 8.a. What is pleasing in His sight?

 b. In verse 23, of what does John remind us again?

 c. Do we obey because it’s a command or do we obey because of our love for Jesus?

 9.a. How does the Spirit assure us that God abides in us and we abide in Him? I John 3:24; Romans 8:16.

 b. What does it mean to abide? John 15:1-10.

 c. And with what reminder? I John 2:6