

Date: 3/5/17 RBC SF2994

Title: What or Who Is a Christian? Christians Sincerely Love

Text: 1 John 3:11-18

For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

**John 13:34-35** - "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

## I. We Know We Are Christians Because We Love Each Other

(v.14)

Notice in the list of Roman virtues below the absence of LOVE. Christians number one virtue should be to love each other

- Spiritual Authority: the sense of one's social standing, built up through experience, pietas, and industria.
- Humor: openness, and friendliness.
- Mercy: Mildness and gentleness.
- Dignity: Aa sense of self-worth, personal pride.
- Tenacity: strength of mind, the ability to stick to one's purpose.
- Frugality: economy and simplicity of style, without being miserly.
- Gravity: responsibility and earnestness.
- Respectability
- Humanity: learning, and being cultured.
- Industriousness: hard work.
- Dutifulness: more than religious piety; a respect for the natural order socially, politically, and religiously. Includes the ideas of patriotism and devotion to others.
- Prudence: foresight, wisdom, and personal discretion.
- Wholesomeness: health and cleanliness.
- Sternness: gravity, self-control.
- Truthfulness: honesty in dealing with others.

## II. Christians Are Warned That to Hate Is the Same as Committing Murder

(v.12, 15)

**Matthew 5:21-22** - "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment.

## III. There Are Three Major Ways to Express Christian Love

1. v.16 Lay down ourselves for others.
2. v.17 Assist our fellow Christians in need.
3. v.18 Be truthful and let actions speak louder than words.

**1John 4:7-8** - Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

**1 John 4:12-13** - No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.