

Questions Through 1 John

Lesson 3: What Does it Mean That if We Hate Your Brother We Walk in Darkness?



- * Those who trust in God are described as walking in the _____. God wants us to live in the light as He is in the light (John 3:21; 1 John 1:7). Walking in the light means living in _____ to Him and not living in sin. The unbeliever, however, lives in _____.
- * Those who walk in the light are to be marked by _____. This love is shown in obedience to God (John 15:10; 1 John 2:3) and in loving others (John 15:12, 17; 1 John 4:7–8). Love for others is a sign of God’s _____ in the life of a believer (John 13:34–35; 1 John 4:7–12).
- * Since God is love, anyone who does not love others shows that God is _____ in him (1 John 4:20). Loving others is not a suggestion for believers; it is a _____ (Mark 12:30–31). Jesus told His (John 13:34). Love for others _____ our love for God, who is Light, so he who hates his brother walks in darkness, showing that God’s love is not in him.
- * Our love for _____ is another way the world can see God. Because of God’s love for us (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9), He sent His Son into the world that we might live through Him both in this life and for eternity.
- * Yet it is possible for people to _____ they love God without truly knowing Him. That’s why John warns that he who _____ his brother actually walks in darkness. Loving others distinguishes those walking in _____ from those walking in _____.
- * In John 13:35, after Jesus commands His disciples to love one another, He says, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” Believers love others because “[_____] first loved us” (1 John 4:19).
- * We are to love others in _____ we do (1 Cor. 16:14). We show love by our _____ as well as our _____ (1 John 3:17, Phil. 2:3–4). James 2:14–17 tells us to live out our faith by providing what others need instead of simply _____ words of blessing.
- * God’s love for us _____ our lives and affects the way we see others who are also made in His image. The person who loves God will love others. He who hates his brother walks in darkness and shows that the love of God is not in him.
- * Those who walk in the light have been given the _____ to love others and have God’s Spirit living in them to help them truly love.

- * Loving others can be _____; even those who genuinely love God and walk in His light still struggle against sinful tendencies (1 John 1:8–10; Rom. 7—8). But God is faithful to give us His heart for others if we seek Him.

- * The more we _____ His great love, the more we'll desire to share it with the world through our _____ and _____. Love speaks truth and genuinely seeks the benefit of the other (John 15:13; Rom. 5:8; 12:9–21; 1 Cor. 13; Eph. 4:15).