

THE TEST OF LOVE

1 John 3:10-18 Jeff Schreve

By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. 1 John 3:10

How does love test our claim to being a Christian?

1. False believers do not love the brethren.

For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; not as Cain, who was of the evil one, and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous. 1 John 3:11-12

A. They are rebellious, hateful, and murderous.

Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 1 John 3:15

B. They are angry with God and His children.

2. True believers have been infused with the love of God.

We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. 1 John 3:14

A. They have been given a new heart and a new nature.

“Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.” Ezekiel 36:26-27

B. They love the brethren and respond to hatred with love.

*We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us.
1 John 3:16*

C. They show love by their deeds and by speaking the truth.

Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. 1 John 3:18

When you search your heart, do you find the love of God?