

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

1 John 3:11-24

Sunday April 12, 2015

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Where (or from whom) was Cain from and why did he murder his brother?

Cain was from the evil one, the devil, even though he was physically a son of Adam. Because Cain’s deeds were evil, which strongly indicates that because he was from the evil one he practiced evil as a way of life, Cain murdered Abel. Because Abel’s deeds were righteous; that is, because Abel practiced righteousness as a way of life, Cain hated Abel and wanted him dead (perhaps because Abel’s righteous life judged Cain’s unrighteous life, whether Abel ever advised or judged Cain or not).

2. What should not surprise true Christians? Give a reason for your answer.

John wrote that we should not be astonished that the world hates true Christians, those who strive to live according to Jesus’ teachings and way of life, because true Christians are or should be practicing a righteous way of life. Righteous living offends the evil one, the devil, and those from the devil who want to practice evil without restraint or any obstacles that the righteous might put in their way or in the ways they want to live.

3. What aspect of our lives shows that we have passed from death to life?

When we love others, we show that we do not abide or remain in death, spiritual death. If we hate others, especially a brother or sister in the Church, we are murderers and do not have eternal life; that is, we do not have the life of Jesus Christ and the Spirit abiding with us and in us giving us spiritual life now and forever.

4. What are some examples of Christian living that John gives believers?

We should not follow the example of Cain, who hated and murdered his brother. We should follow the example of Jesus, who laid down His life for us. If we have the world’s goods, we should help fellow Christians and others in need.

5. Why can true Christians pray with boldness and receive from God whatever they ask?

Their hearts do not condemn them, because they obey the commandments of God and do what pleases God. They obey the commandment of God and believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love as He commanded. All who obey His commandments abide in Christ and have the Spirit; therefore, they know how to pray according to the will of God and receive whatever they ask.

— © Copyright 2015 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr. You may reprint or reproduce *Study Hints for Thinking Further* for not-for-profit use.