

**GETTING TO KNOW YOU**

1. Do you have a favourite "celebrity" preacher? If so, what benefit do you find in following his ministry? Can you think of any drawbacks of such celebrity Christian culture? Does John's frequent use of terms of endearment ("beloved," "little children," etc.) inform your thinking in this way at all?

**WORLDVIEW**

2. Dr. Lloyd-Jones surmised that "most of our failures in Christian living" result from "our failure to realise what we are." He argued that our tendency to look to Scripture for "practical application" rather than first understanding who we are in Christ results in much failure in Christian living. Do you think this is an accurate assessment? Explain.

**INTO THE BIBLE**

3. In a section that focuses on Christian love, John inserts a matter-of-fact statement in v. 13: "Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you." What does the world's hatred have to do with Christian love? Why would the world hate those who display genuine Christian love?

**GOING DEEPER**

4. Do you think that Christians, in displaying the kind of love of which John here writes, play a role in restraining evil in the world? How does John's use of the Cain and Abel story illustrate this reality?

In what ways might acting with Christian love result in a restraint of evil in our society? Give practical examples.

5. Why do you think John singles out the sin of murder as representative of those who belong to the city of man? What does it mean that “no murderer has eternal life abiding in him”?

Is it fair that God requires perfect righteousness? Is it fair to categorise unbelievers as murderers?

6. John is burdened in the text before us to press home the truth that love acts—that Christian love is manifested in action toward the objects of its love. According to this text, what or who is the object of Christian love? What does it look like, practically, for such love to act?