

Study Guide-1John Lesson 62

May 20, 2026

This study guide examines the sharp contrast between the children of God and the children of the devil as presented in 1 John 3:11-18. It explores the three primary characteristics of those who do not know God—murder, hatred, and indifference—and highlights the sacrificial love that defines a true believer in Jesus Christ. By looking at examples like Cain and Epaphroditus, this document explains how internal attitudes and external actions reveal a person's spiritual state.

Study Quiz: Short-Answer Questions

1. According to the text, why did Cain decide to murder his brother Abel?
 2. What does the document describe as the "moral equivalent" of murder in God's eyes?
 3. Why should believers not be surprised or "marvel" when the world expresses hatred toward them?
 4. According to Jesus Christ's teaching in Matthew 5:21-22, what is the spiritual danger of calling someone a "fool" or using the term "Raca"?
 5. How does the document distinguish between a murderer who can be saved and someone who has no eternal life abiding in them?
 6. What is the "third characteristic" of the children of the devil, and how is it defined in the context of material goods?
 7. How does the text describe the difference between worldly philanthropy and true Christian love?
 8. According to 1 John 3:14, what is the primary evidence that a person has "passed from death to life"?
 9. In what specific way did Epaphroditus demonstrate the characteristics of a child of God in Philippians 2?
 10. What does it mean to love "in deed and in truth" rather than just "in word or in tongue"?
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Answer Key

1. Cain murdered Abel because he was jealous and angry that God accepted his brother's animal sacrifice while rejecting his own. Cain wanted his relationship with God to be based on his own accomplishments, and he despised Abel because Abel was truly righteous and obedient to God.
2. The document states that hatred is the moral equivalent of murder. Even if a person does not physically kill someone, harboring a murderous attitude or intense hatred marks them as a child of the devil in the eyes of God.
3. Believers should not be surprised by the world's hatred because it is expected that the wicked will treat the righteous the same way Cain treated Abel. Since the world is made up of the children of the devil, they naturally loathe those who follow Jesus Christ because the righteous expose their evil deeds.
4. Jesus Christ taught that those who are angry without cause or use insulting epithets are in danger of judgment and hellfire. He emphasized that the heart's attitude is just as serious as the act of murder, showing that internal hate leads to eternal consequences.
5. A person who has committed murder, like the Apostle Paul, can be saved if they repent and are transformed by God's grace. However, someone who continues to live with a habitual murderous heart or persistent hatred shows they have never been transformed and do not have eternal life.
6. The third characteristic is indifference, which is seen when someone has the world's goods but refuses to help a brother in need. This person "shuts up his heart," showing that they are dominated by selfishness rather than the love of God.
7. Worldly philanthropy is often done to pacify one's conscience or to gain personal glory and a noble reputation. In contrast, true Christian love is a genuine, heart-breaking concern for others that results in real sacrifice without seeking self-interest.
8. The primary evidence of passing from death to life is that a person "loves the brethren." A true believer is characterized by a desire to bring life and blessing to others rather than harboring hate or practicing murder.
9. Epaphroditus demonstrated the love of a child of God by nearly dying for the work of Jesus Christ. He disregarded his own life to serve the needs of others and to complete the service that was lacking toward the Apostle Paul.
10. Loving "in deed and in truth" means that love must be shown through genuine actions and sacrificial giving rather than just through empty words. It involves active involvement in meeting the needs of others and manifesting the truth of one's faith through conduct.

Essay Format Questions

1. **The Contrast of Sacrifices:** Compare and contrast the heart attitudes of Cain and Abel. How did their approach to worship lead to the first instance of murder in human history?
2. **The Moral Equivalence of Hatred:** Analyze the argument that hatred is the moral equivalent of murder. Why does the text suggest that only the fear of consequences prevents many people from committing the actual act?
3. **The Role of Government and Anarchy:** Based on the text, why did God establish government in the world, and how does this relate to the "extreme condition" of man's anger?
4. **Indifference as a Spiritual Indicator:** Discuss why indifference is considered a characteristic of the children of the devil. How does "shutting up one's heart" prove a lack of the love of God, even if the person is not actively violent?
5. **Assurance Through Action:** Explain how loving others "in deed and in truth" provides assurance of salvation to the believer. Why is professional or verbal claims of faith insufficient for true confidence before God?

Glossary of Key Terms

Term	Definition
Anarchy	A state of total freedom without government or laws, which the document describes as something humans fear because of the potential for uncontrolled anger.
Assurance	The confidence or certainty a believer has that they are "of the truth" and possess eternal life.
Blasphemer	Someone who speaks irrelevantly or wickedly about God; the Apostle Paul used this term to describe his life before his conversion.
Brethren	Fellow believers in the Christian faith; members of the spiritual family of God.
Indifference	A lack of interest or concern; in this study, it refers to the selfish habit of ignoring the needs of others while possessing the means to help.
Manifest	To make clear or evident to the eye; the way internal spiritual states are revealed through external actions.
Philanthropy	The desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed by the generous donation of money or resources, though sometimes done for selfish glory.

Regenerate	To be spiritually reborn or transformed by God; the opposite of "unregenerate," which describes a person still in their sinful state.
Retribution	Punishment inflicted on someone as vengeance for a wrong or criminal act; the "judgment" that often restrains people from acting on their hate.
Unregenerate	A person who has not been spiritually renewed or converted; a "child of the devil" who lacks the indwelling love of God.

Greek Terminology and Phonetic Guide

In examining the "indifference" of the children of the devil, the text highlights a specific Greek term regarding the closing of one's heart or compassion.

- **Splagchnon**¹
 - **Phonetic Pronunciation:** *splahngkh-non*
 - **Definition:** Literally translated as "bowels," this term refers to the inner parts of a person. In a metaphorical sense, it represents the seat of emotions, specifically the "heart" of compassion and deep-seated feelings for others.

¹ Note: In 1 John 3:17, when a person "shuts up his heart," he is closing off his **splagchnon**, or his capacity for compassion and mercy toward a brother in need.