

Four Levels of Relationships — Easter Continued #5
Church by the Sea ~ Madeira Beach, FL
April 28, 2024 Dr. Jeffry Iskra

Four Levels of Relationships

1) MURDER

1 John 3:11-12 This is the message you have heard from the beginning: We ~~shoud~~ love one another. ¹² We must not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

2) HATRED

Vs. 13-15 Do not be surprised, brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers and sisters. The one who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵ Anyone who hates another brother or sister is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don't have eternal life within them.

3) APATHY

Vs. 16-17 We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has this world's goods and sees a fellow believer in need but withholds compassion (closes his heart) from him—how does God's love reside in him?

4) Christian Love Has ACTIONS

Vs. 18 Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

- Practicing Christian Love Produces Assurance

Vs. 19-20 Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God. ²⁰ Even if we feel guilty, God is greater than our feelings, and he knows everything.

- Practicing Christian Love Produces Answered Prayer

Vs. 21-22 Dear friends, if we don't feel guilty, we can come to God with bold confidence. ²² And we will receive from him whatever we ask because we obey him and do the things that please him.

- Practicing Christian Love Produces Abiding Fellowship

Vs. 23-24 And this is his commandment: We must believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he commanded us. ²⁴ Those who obey God's commandments remain in fellowship with him, and he with them. And we know he lives in us because the Spirit he gave us lives in us.