

CIVILITY

Abide

October 14, 2018

Introduction: I know many of you are concerned about our nation and the tone of anger and hatred that exists in almost every corner of society. From a Supreme Court nominee to fathers at a little league football game, the spirit of our nation has turned toward incivility and disrespect for one's fellow man. It's so bad, I even find myself avoiding media posts of my 'friends'. We are called to love our brothers. But, the questions we want to address today is, who is my brother and how should I love those with whom I disagree?

Scripture Reading: 1 John 2:9–11

I. Abide – To remain, to dwell

*And the world is passing away along with its desires, but **whoever does the will of God abides forever** (1 John 2:17).*

II. A World of Hate vs Civility – Polite, Reasonable, and Respectful Behavior.

*But whoever **hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness**, and does not know where he is going, because **the darkness has blinded his eyes** (1 John 2:11).*

III. Who is My Brother?

¹³ *Do not be surprised, brothers, that **the world hates you**.* ¹⁴ *We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. **Whoever does not love abides in death.***

¹⁵ ***Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer**, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.* ¹⁶ ***By this we know** love, that he laid down his life for us, and **we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers** (1 John 3:13–16).*

⁶ ***whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.*** ⁷

*Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment **is the word that you have heard**.* ⁸ *At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.* ⁹ ***Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness** (1 John 2:6–9).*

IV. Changing the Paradigm

²¹ *"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.'* ²² *But I say to you that **everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment**; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, '**You fool!**' **will be liable to the hell of fire**.* ²³ *So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. **First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift** (Matthew 5:21–24).*

You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord (Leviticus 19:18).

- A. Show all people respect.

And **the tongue is a fire**, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, **setting on fire the entire course of life**, and set on fire by hell (James 3:6).

- B. Show all people compassion.

³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but **in humility count others more significant than yourselves**. ⁴ Let each of you **look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others** (Philippians 2:3–4).

Do for the one, what you wish everyone would do to others.
“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 7:12 NIV).

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Scripture Reading: 1 John 2:9–11

- I. Abide – To _____, to _____ (*1 John 2:17*)
- II. A World of Hate vs Civility – Polite, Reasonable, and Respectful Behavior. (*1 John 2:11*)
- III. Who is My Brother? (*1 John 3:13–16*) (*1 John 2:6–9*)
- IV. Changing the Paradigm (*Matthew 5:21–24*)
 - A. Show all people _____. (*James 3:6*)
 - B. Show all people _____. (*Philippians 2:3–4*)

Do for the _____, what you wish _____ would do to _____.
“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you,
for this sums up the Law and the Prophets” (*Matthew 7:12 NIV*).