

Questions: A Healthy church is... a loving family (I John 3:11-24)

1. What do you feel are the characteristics and purpose of a fully functioning family?
2. Think about the people you *love* the most, and the people who *annoy* you the most – Is there any overlap between the two?!
3. In what ways do you think our church family shows the kind of love mentioned in 1 John 3:16 to 18?
4. John speaks about Cain and Abel. But why, according to John, did Cain murder Abel?
5. In John's analogy of Cain and Abel, who does Cain stand for and who does Abel stand for?
6. Does obeying God's commandment to love always result in the world loving you?
7. According to John, what does "love" (Gk. *agape*) look like?
8. Look at 1 John 3:24 – how does God help us to keep Jesus' great commandment to love one another?
9. Think: does being brothers and sisters in Christ make it easier or harder for us to love one another?
10. What does loving your brother and sister in Christ reveal about you? (1 John 3:14) Equally what does *not* loving your brother and sister in Christ reveal about you (1 John 3:15)
11. Is there anyone who has helped you feel a part of our church family by doing something kind? Could you send them a message of appreciation?

Family Fun:

Can you think of any practical things you could do (individual or as a family) to love others in our church family – especially those whom you may not love at first?