

# Glorifying God By Fellowship

## 1 John 3:11–24

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### Summary

Our ultimate goal in life is to glorify God. One way in which we glorify God is by loving other believers. This study explores different levels of relationship—three that are inadequate, and one that demonstrates that we belong to God’s family.

The good news of the Gospel is that we were formed for God’s family. When God transformed us by His grace, He made us part of His family. One of the ways we know we are part of God’s family is the love we have for one another.

Our text for today is found in **1 John 3:11–24**.

### Review: Our Ultimate Goal in Life Is to Glorify God

The first question in the Westminster Shorter Catechism asks, “What is the chief end [or goal] of man?” The answer given is, “Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.”

1. The reason we exist is to bring glory to God. God created us and all things for His own glory.

Our mission as a church is to glorify God in each of three key areas: **Make, Mature, and Multiply** Disciples of Jesus. (Front of the Sunday Bulletin)

Interestingly, each of these key areas corresponds to how we glorify God in our personal lives too.

1. First, we bring glory to God by **worshiping Him**. We studied this key area two weeks ago.
2. Second, we bring glory to God by **loving other believers**. This is what we are going to look at today. This key area corresponds to membership, which brings us into fellowship with one another.
3. Third, we bring glory to God by **becoming like Christ**. This key area corresponds to maturity.
4. Fourth, we bring glory to God by **serving others with our gifts**. This key area corresponds to ministry.
5. Fifth, we bring glory to God by **telling others about Him**. This key area corresponds to mission.

### Introduction

Today, we want to examine how we bring glory to God by loving other believers—glorifying God by fellowship.

John MacArthur suggests that there are four possible levels of relationship in our text. I would like to look at each one briefly. These four levels of relationship are:

1. Murder (3:11–12)
2. Hatred (3:13–15)
3. Indifference (3:16–17)
4. Love (3:18–24)

## **I. Murder (3:11–12)**

The first level of relationship is murder. Murder is the lowest level on which one may live in relationship to someone else.

2. The apostle John uses Cain as an example of murder. He says in verse 12: “Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother’s were righteous.”

Cain and Abel brought sacrifices to God (Genesis 4:1–16). God accepted Abel’s sacrifice but not Cain’s. Cain became so angry that he murdered his brother—and became the first murderer in history.

3. The tragic story of Cain and Abel did not have to happen if only Cain had controlled his emotions and listened to the counsel of God. Instead, we witness the first murder and the further progression of humanity’s rebellion and wickedness.