



WISDOMFEST 2025

1. The Choice

“**Love** one another” is both the **invitation**
and a **command**.

John's example of who not to be like: **Cain**

Cain got stuck in his own head.

“For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

“We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother.

“And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother’s righteous.

“Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.

“We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers.

“Whoever does not love abides in death.

“Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.”

1 John 3:11-15

“Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground.

“In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions.

“And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.

“The LORD said to Cain, ‘Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted?’

“And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.”

“Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

“Then the LORD said to Cain, ‘Where is Abel your brother?’ He said, ‘I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?’

“And the LORD said, ‘What have you done?
The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to
me from the ground.

“And now you are cursed from the ground,
which has opened its mouth to receive your
brother's blood from your hand.

“When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.”

Genesis 4:2b-12

“And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

“Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.”

1 John 3:23-24

2. The Power

The power to obey always comes from **God**.

“By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.

“Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.”

1 John 3:19-22

“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 3:16

3. The Practical

“But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.”

1 John 3:17-18