

1Jhn 05 - Disciples Genuinely Love - 1Jn 2:7-11

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John is still dealing with **the MARKS**
of a **Disciple** who is truly "**Walking in the Light**"

He **began** this section back in **1Jn 1:5** with the statement;
God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

& then he **followed** that absolute statement
by drawing a very clear **LINE IN THE SAND** in

1Jn 1:6-7 - ESV

6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

& **SINCE** those Vs's

John has been **giving** us very clear **LITMUS TESTS**

for us to **KNOW** whether we are **walking in the Light**,
or, whether we are Lying, & **walking in the darkness**

This **hasn't** really been **an easy section** of scripture, has it?

We've **had to ask ourselves** some very **difficult questions**,
with some very **black & white** answers

2 Msgs ago we had to ask:

how do we **address SIN** in our lives ?

Last Msg we had to ask:

how do we **address OBEDIENCE TO GOD** in our lives ?

& in **both** those msgs - we were given **LITMUS TESTS**
that gave us either **ASSURANCE**, or **CONCERN**

About whether we are **Walking in the Light**
or **Walking in the Darkness**

So - we've been thru **Two** of those **LITMUST** Tests

& **Now** today - we come to the **THIRD Test** in this set
*tho certainly **NOT the last** test in the book*

But today - **the THIRD TEST** (Mark)
of whether we are truly **Walking in the Light** - or **NOT**

This Is the test . . . of LOVE
& it's kind of **like** a **FINAL EXAM**

Let's Pray

Today - John **continues** the tests of **Walking in the Light**
with the test of **LOVE**

In **Mat 22:37-39** Jesus Gave us the Greatest Commandments

- 1) ***You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your mind***
- 2) ***You shall love your neighbor as yourself***

Then Jesus **walked in** that
Love for God & **Love** for others

& **then** - in the **last Vs** of our last Msg - we read

1Jn 2:6 - ESV

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

Which means "Walking":

- 1) by our supreme **LOVE** for God
 - 2) by our supreme **LOVE** for One Another
-
-

& **then** - there was that Great **NEW COMMANDMENT**
Jesus gave - at the **Last Supper** - in the **Upper Room**

This verse is **VERY IMPORTANT** to the text
so **let's turn** (& listen)

Jn 13:34-35 - ESV

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as (in the same way) I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples (like a light), if you have love for one another.”

& so now

- 1) we've wrapped up the **Greatest Commandments** of the Law
- 2) we've seen **Foundational Commandment** of the NT church

& they **BOTH** - are **LOVE**, right?

OK, **now** we're ready to **start** our text today

1Jn 2:7 - ESV

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.

John begins by saying:

LOOK - this is NO New Commandment
this is an **OLD commandment** - you've had from the beginning

This Commandment was the **Foundation** of the NT church

But - let's **GO BACK** - right smack dab
into the **MIDDLE** of the **Law of MOSES** . . .

Lev 19:18 - ESV → →

Lev 19:18 - ESV

18 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.

Guys - Jesus **Didn't CHANGE** Anything
He **FULFILLED** Everything !

& Jesus gave us **the ABILITY** to Love as He loved

Rom 5:5 says - ESV

5 . . . God's love (AGAPE) has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Jesus GAVE us both;

The **ABILITY** to Love - **AND**
The **COMMANDMENT** to Love

& this commandment is **sewn into the fabric** of the **OT**
& is the **Foundation** of the **NT churches**

& so - 1Jn 2:7 says

***it's a commandment that you had from the beginning
it is the word that you have heard***

Guys - **THIS** is the **Foundational COMMANDMENT**
that the **Body of Christ** is to **be BUILT ON**

Just as Jn 13:34-35 says

***We must love one another: just as Jesus loved us.
BY THIS all people will know that we are His disciples, if we have
love for one another***

THAT is **WHY** - the **Litmus Test of LOVE**
is the **FINAL EXAM** - for the **Mark** of a **True DISCIPLE**

Look at just two other **References**
here in **John's Epistles**

1Jn 3:11 - ESV

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

2Jn 5 - ESV

5 . . . not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another.

Guys - We are **CALLED**, **REQUIRED**, **COMMANDED**
to **LOVE** One Another

It is the **foundational commandment** - for **all Disciples**

In **V.7**, John has said
this is the **OLD Commandment**

& now - in **V.8**, John says
it's **ALSO** the **New Commandment**

look at 1st Third of - 1Jn 2:8(A) - ESV → →

1Jn 2:8(A) - ESV

8 At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you . . .

It's the **OLD commandment**

*It **encapsulates** all the **OT** Horizontal Laws*

It's the **NEW commandment**

***Jesus** gave it as the **foundation** of the NT church*

So - **Where** on the "***importance scale***" does that put

the **TEST** of **LOVE** - as a **TRUE MARK** - of a **True DISCIPLE** ?

It **puts it** pretty much at **the top** - *doesn't it ?*

Let's read ALL of 1Jn 2:8 - ESV

8 At the same time, it (Love) 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.

We have to **look closely** to understand this

John says - this **New Commandment** of Love
is true **IN HIM** (Jesus) & true **IN YOU**

This Love was True IN Jesus - we know that

*if we are **Abiding in Him***

*& He is **Abiding in Us***

*& we are **Walking in the Light**, As He is in the Light*

Then **the Love** that is True **IN HIM**

will be True **IN US** - - *do you see that ?*

One translator said we could loosely translate this phrase
"This love, which is thru Him, & in you"

because THIS Love can only **Originate in Jesus**
& comes **THRU** Him - **TO US**

BUT THEN - Look at **WHY** V.8 **says**
this Love - is True **IN JESUS** - & True **IN US**
(Look for the word - **BECAUSE**)

1Jn 2:8 - ESV

8 At the same time, it (Love) 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.

The **BECAUSE** means
*This is **WHY** we know this is true*

because the **darkness** is passing away
& the **true light** is already shining - **IN YOU**

The **True Light** - that **IS** the Love of Jesus Christ

When Jesus Christ **truly comes** into your life
the **darkness** begins to *pass away*
& the **true light** begins to *shine*

So much so - that it should be a clear **MARK**

John 1:4-5 say about Jesus → →

John 1:4-5 - ESV

4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

We've got to **make sure** that the **LIGHT** of Jesus Christ is **shining** in our lives

& **Jesus** Himself says - the **BEST WAY** for that Light to Shine is for us - to **LOVE** one another

Again - Jn 13:35 says

35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples (like a shining light), if you have love for one another."

& 1Jn 2:8 says - this Love is **true in you**
because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining

Is that True - ***In You ?***

Is the **"darkness" of Hate** passing away in your life ?

Is the **"true light" of God's Love** shining in your life ?

If so - then you have a **True MARK**
of being a **True DISCIPLE**

Guys - **We** are the **Light of the World**

& one of the **Greatest ways** that we either;
SHOW that Light - or - Put that Light **OUT**

is by how **we love** - or **NOT love** - one another

It's interesting tho - isn't it - how much **UNLOVING** conduct we see in **the church** - toward one another ??

THAT may very well be **WHY**
John is making it **excruciatingly clear**

that **LOVING** one another - is **one highest MARKS** (Signs)
that we are actually **Saved** & **Abiding** in Christ

But remember - **YOU ALONE** can't love like that
*Only Jesus **IN YOU** can*

But **here's** the cool **part**

When you find yourself **INCREASING** in a Love
that you know is **NOT** your own

Then you **KNOW** - **The Love** of Jesus **IN YOU**

& **then** - **not only** can you be **ASSURED** of your **Salvation**

but you **can become** - a **City on a Hill**
& **a Light** to those **Walking in Darkness**

Remember - this **ENTIRE teaching** started with the statement
GOD IS LIGHT, & in Him is no darkness at all (1:5)

& now - John connects **Walking** in LOVE - to **Walking in the LIGHT**
& he connects **NOT** Walking in LOVE - to **Walking in DARKNESS**

& he's about to use **VERY STRONG language**
to get this **Critical Point** across

1Jn 2:9 - ESV

9 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness.

(Hate = Hostility, Extreme Dislike)

Well - **that's pretty clear**, isn't it?

We've **seen** the test of - **Dealing with SIN**

We've **seen** the test of - **Walking in OBEDIENCE**

& **now we see**, what could be called - **The FINAL EXAM**

Are we **WALKING IN LOVE** - or **NOT**

& remember - we've said all along - the **KEY balancing phrase** is
NOT PERFECTLY - - BUT INCREASINGLY

Are we INCREASINGLY - WALKING IN LOVE

If so - then we are Absolutely

ABIDING in Christ, & **WALKING** in the Light

& If we are Walking in **HATE** - then we **MUST DEAL**
with our **Relationship** with Christ

If there is not a **growing** pattern of **LOVE** in your life
then you're are **missing** one of the **KEY MARKS**

Maybe Jesus is **NOT truly LORD** in this area

Maybe we've **NOT SURRENDERED** this area to Him ?

But we have got to USE these tests

to allow the **LIGHT** of Jesus Christ
to shine in **EVERY** area of our lives

If we **SAY** that Jesus is our **LORD**
& we're **holding HATE** for a brother or sister in Christ

Then **obviously** there is still **some DARKNESS** in our lives
that we have got to **deal with**

& we **can't think** that we're **OK** - until we've dealt it

Now - **I know** - there are some
who are carrying **HATE** for a ***"Very Good Reason"***

& I know this is **easier SAID** than **DONE**

but **please hear** me - there is **no doubt** in my mind

that **one of the reasons** - **Jesus** went thru
the unbelievable **HORRORS** that He **experienced**

Is so that **NONE of US** could ever say
"Jesus, You Don't Understand"

He **DOES** understand !

& He wants to **HEAL** you of that **HATE**
& bring the **LIGHT** of His **Love**, into that area of darkness in your life

In **V.10** - we see the **"Bright Side"** of this test
& we see **another** real benefit . . .

1Jn 2:10 - ESV → →

1Jn 2:10 - ESV

10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.

Whoever **LOVES** (*Agapao (V. of Agape)*) his brother
Abides in the Light

But **then** - **There's More**

In the person who **Loves** -
there is **NO CAUSE** for **Stumbling**

& Man, that is good !

If we will (thru Christ) **increasingly love** one another
We will **NOT** be a **CAUSE** - to make someone **STUMBLE**

Have **you ever** done that ?
(been a **CAUSE** to make someone **STUMBLE**)

I **HAVE** - It's usually when I become **ANGRY**

& then I **almost always** become a **CAUSE**
for someone to **STUMBLE**

But please hear me - **I AM STILL IN PROCESS**
& **YOU are still in process**

& **if** I am being **Continually Transformed**
by **Abiding** in the Light, & **Walking** in the Light

Then I should be **LESS** of a **CAUSE** for stumbling **THIS YEAR**
than I was **LAST YEAR**

But if I am still **just as big a Jerk** this year
as I was last year,

then I am **NOT** walking in the Light
& I'm **NOT** Abiding in the Light - ***& I need to be afraid***

Because there's **NO EVIDENCE** of the Light - in my Life

& if I am **holding on** to **HATE** toward another person
I am in **VERY, VERY** deep trouble

Which is exactly what **V.11** says

1Jn 2:11 - ESV

11 But whoever hates (gk = continually hating) ***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.***

Whoever is Holding on to Hate toward a Brother or Sister

Is **IN** the Darkness
Is **Walking** in the Darkness
& Doesn't even know **Where** they're going
Because the Darkness has **Blinded** their eyes

When you **embrace hate** - you are **walking in Darkness**

& **that darkness** has **blinded** you
so that you **don't even know** where you're **headed**

& **guess what** - if you **walk around** long enough in darkness -
you are going to get **hit by a BUS!**

You know - if we saw someone walking in a busy city intersection with a full BLINDFOLD ON

we'd say HEY man you're walking around in the Darkness
You're going to get HIT by a BUS!!

& if they say - *NO, I THINK I'm good . . .*

YEAH - - because the Darkness has Blinded you
& you're headed for a FALL

BUT - what about when we see someone
walking in the blindness of HATE toward a *brother or sister*

Do we do something to help them spiritually survive?

Do we say HEY, you are walking in the darkness
& eventually - you are going to get HIT, by a BUS !!

We CANNOT STAY in a state of Hate (*Lit; Hostility, Extreme Dislike*)
toward ANY other person

If we do - that Darkness that we are walking in - WILL Blind us
& we will not like where we end up

But let me give us some HOPE

Look again - at 1Jn 2:8 - ESV

8 At the same time, it (Love) 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.

If you will truly Surrender every area of your life to Jesus Christ

His **Agape Love** - **WILL BE** True in **YOU**
*He will be **Faithful** to give it to you*

& then - **Notice** Carefully - it says
because the darkness is passing away

The Darkness in your Life - will **Progressively PASS AWAY**

Watch a Sunrise this week

Just get up early - & **go outside & talk to God** while the sun rises
(or come to Easter Sunrise)

& **notice** how the **Darkness "Progressively" Passes away**
As the SON is rising in your life

Sometimes - **It is a PROCESS**

But **NOTICE ALSO** - the end of V.8
the true light is already shining

If Jesus Christ is **Abiding** in your Life
& You are **Abiding** in Him

The **True Light** is already **Shining**

ALLOW that Light to Shine
on **EVERY Dark area** of your life

Until the SON - has Completely **Risen**
& **YOU** - are **Walking in the Light** - as ***He is in the Light***

Let's Pray