

POINT: We GROW in Christ When we LOVE as He Loved

How did God speak to you through Sunday's message?

1. Read 1 John 2:3-11. What do verses 2:4, 6, 9 have in common?

How are each of these "claims" contradicted?

What are the characteristics of an authentic Christian who knows God (v4), who lives (abides) in Him (v6), and who claims to be in the Light (v9)?

2. Read v5: whoever keeps His word, truly in this one the love of God is perfected. Consider how keeping or obeying God's word perfects our love for God (as in 1 John 5:3)

3. Read 1 John 2:7-8. As was explained on Sunday, the old command which you have had from the beginning is the gospel message to believe in God's Son, Jesus, and do what Jesus commanded. See 1 John 3:23. Discuss the new command, which is true in Him and you, by reading the Gospel of John 13:34-35, I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another.

How significant are the words, as I have love you, to the words, love one another?

4. Read 1 John 2:9-11. How can we know that we are in the Light and that we walk in the Light?

5. Based on 1 John 2:3-11, How do we grow in Christ? Does John's teaching permit us to hate others over doctrinal differences? How will perfecting our love for God change our status quo, even when others who claim Christ or deny Christ are walking in the dark?