

Loving One Another

1 John 2:7-11

- **God actually commands His children to be loving towards one another.**
- **He genuinely cares how we treat each other.**

- **John 13-34-35**

³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

1 John 2:7-11

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. ⁸At the same time, it 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.

1 John 2:7-11

⁹Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. ¹⁰Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. ¹¹But whoever hates 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.”

I. Love: Christian Identity.

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 conveys that the command he gives to love is both old and new.**
- It is old because it has been taught throughout the Old Testament.**

I. Love: Christian Identity.

Leviticus 19:18

¹⁸You 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.

I. Love: Christian Identity.

- **Vengeance: punishment inflicted in retaliation for an injury or offense.**
- **Grudge: a strong, long-lasting feeling of anger or resentment against someone, often due to a perceived wrong or injustice.**

I. Love: Christian Identity.

- It's new because Jesus gave it a deeper meaning; a New Covenant newness.**
 - New emphasis- Jesus stressed its importance.**
 - New Quality- it is sacrificial in nature.**
 - New Extent- it includes enemies, foreigners, and sinners.**
 - New Staying Power- God is renewing the command.**

II. Love: Christian Mission

⁸At the same time, it 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. ⁹Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness.

II. Love: Christian Mission

- **John now identifies love with light.**
 - **The darkness is passing away.**
 - **Love is overcoming the darkness.**
- **The love of Christ and His followers (church) is overcoming darkness which is sin and hatred.**

II. Love: Christian Mission

- **It is not enough to be doctrinally right or morally right. Without love people won't care.**
- **Love makes doctrine and morals credible.**

II. Love: Christian Mission

- **So, how do we practically show this love?**
 - **We do so through sacrifice.**
- **Failing to love at best calls into question one's sincerity; at worst it proves them to be unbelievers.**

II. Love: Christian Mission

- Verse 9 comes as a warning.

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

- John is calling his readers to examine themselves and to not be self-deceived.

II. Love: Christian Mission

- **Lack of love is not only hatred. It can include:**
 - **Apathy**
 - **Indifference**
 - **Refusal to act**
 - **Refusal to care**

III. Love: Christian Living

¹⁰Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. ¹¹But whoever hates 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.”

III. Love: Christian Living

- **Love that is Christlike is in harmony with God's Law.**
- **Therefore, it never misleads the believer when it comes to making decisions and taking action.**

III. Love: Christian Living

Romans 13:10 ESV

¹⁰“Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.”

III. Love: Christian Living

- **John Stott said, “It is love which sees straight, thinks clearly and makes us balanced in our outlook, judgements, and conduct.**
- **Note: When one is directed by God’s love they will not get entangled in sin.**

III. Love: Christian Living

- **Sin is complicated and messy by nature.**
 - **When we commit sin, it ushers in complex difficulties into our lives.**
- **Righteousness is simple and straight forward.**

III. Love: Christian Living

- John warns that hatred leads to being in the dark which leads to walking in the dark which leads to being lost in the dark and finally blindness.**
- Love leads to ethical decisions that are crystal clear.**
- These are things that are obviously of the Lord and please the Lord.**