

I JOHN 2:7 – 11

LOVE - A NEW PARADIGM

- I. 1Jn 2:7-11 “Brethren, I write no **new commandment** to you, but an **old commandment** which you have had from the beginning. The **old commandment** is the word which you heard from the beginning. (8) Again, a **new commandment** I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. (9) He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. (10) He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. (11) But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. (Ex. 20:1-17 + Matt 22:37-40 + Rom 13:8-10 + Gal 5:14)

1st John 7 - “I write no new commandment ...,” – but an old commandment...”

The commandment was new in its **emphasis, quality, extent, and freshness**. “As I have loved you” John 13:34.

- It is the fact that you and Christ share the same life that makes it possible for you to love someone who is difficult, disagreeable, or hard to live with.
- The new paradigm is not **love produced for Christ**, but **Christ’s love expressed through us**.
- The commandment is “true in Him and in you” (1 John 2:8). Love becomes increasingly evident in believers because they are **in Him**. Love flows from our union with Christ - **His life, character, and His love becoming visible in us**.
- The New Experience of an Old Truth: “Doctrinal Christianity is always old; experimental Christianity is always new.

A. GOD THE SON is loves’ STANDARD; ...an entirely new paradigm of love. See the similarity of the old and the new

- Isaiah 53:12 “...Because He poured out His soul unto death...”, *speaks of the Savior who will perfectly express love.*
- John 15:13 – “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.” He did more than risk His life for His friends
- Eph 2:15 – “...having abolished in His flesh the enmity ...” - *He gave His life to make so great a provision - that enemies might become His friends.*

B. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT is loves’ SOURCE,

- Ezk 36:27 “I will put My Spirit within you
- Rom 5:5 “...the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

C. GOD THE FATHER is loves’ SURE FOUNDATION,

- Jer. 31:3 - “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.”
- 1 John 4:8, 16 “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

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D. HIS PEOPLE are loves' STEWARDS, ... *Those who carry the name of Jesus are living epistles ... the only Bible that some will ever read.*

- Jeremiah 31:33 “... *I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*”
- John 13:35 “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- 2Co 3:2-3 You are our epistle written in our hearts, ... (3) clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ... written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.

E. DESCRIPTION OF LOVE:

Love is a self-giving commitment to seek God's highest good for the one who is loved - even when that good requires personal sacrifice, patient endurance, or the courage to speak the truth.

Love is more than affection, approval, or giving someone what they want. It asks, “What will genuinely serve this person's deepest and eternal good?” For the believer, that highest good is ultimately that the person would know Christ, experience His grace, and become increasingly conformed to His character.

This means love may express itself through tenderness and comfort, but it may also require correction, boundaries, patience, forgiveness, or allowing someone to experience the consequences of a harmful choice. Love does not seek to control another person or force a desired outcome. It faithfully does what is right and entrusts the results to God.

***Example: Jesus and Peter:** When Peter resisted Jesus' teaching about the cross, Jesus firmly corrected him: “**Get behind Me, Satan!**” (Matthew 16:23). The words were severe, but they were spoken in love. Jesus did not merely protect Peter's feelings; He confronted the dangerous thinking that stood between Peter and God's purpose.*

*Later, after Peter denied Him, Jesus restored him with tenderness and truth: “**Do you love Me? ... Feed My sheep**” (John 21:15–17). Jesus neither ignored Peter's failure nor rejected Peter because of it. He addressed the failure, reaffirmed the relationship, and called Peter forward into faithful service.*

In both instances, Jesus sought Peter's highest good—not merely his immediate comfort, but his restoration, spiritual maturity, and usefulness in God's purposes.

Here is that statement again - Love is a self-giving commitment to seek God's highest good for the one who is loved—even when that good requires personal sacrifice, patient endurance, or the courage to speak the truth.

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We might say: “Biblical love is the self-giving commitment to seek God's highest good for another person, expressed through truth and grace, while entrusting the outcome to God.”