



Week 5 Study Guide

Read the text: 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. 8 At 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. 9 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. 10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. 11 But 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.

Study the text:

- A good exercise when studying a New Testament epistle (letter) is to trace the author's argument. So take a couple minutes to explain what John has been saying from 1:1 up to this point with a special focus on the early verses of chapter 2.
- Make some observations of the text: what are key/repeated words? What is the subject of the passage (*John is writing about a commandment*)? What does the passage say about the subject? What are the key verbs in the passage?
- What is the command that John is talking about? What is old about the command? What is new about it?
- Look at a parallel passage: John 13:34. How does this passage shed light on the current one? Why does Jesus say it's a new commandment?
- Why is love for others a sign that one knows God?
- John uses the metaphor of walking in light and walking in darkness again in this passage. What is his point?
- What does John mean by hate? Consider what John says in 1 John 3:17. How does this verse also help us understand what John means by the command to love?
- Why does John focus on how we love the "brothers" (the family of God) instead of how we love those who aren't in God's family?
- How can we love as Jesus loves and as he commanded us? Look at these 3 passages for some additional help: Luke 10:25-37, John 15:12-13, John 13:1-17.

- How can we apply this text both as a way to examine ourselves and as a way to grow in our love for others? How can we grow in our love for our brothers and sisters?

Prayer Time: In light of this text...

- What is there to praise God for?
- What sins do you need to confess?
- What is there to ask God for?

Mission: One of our greatest witnesses to the world is our devotion to one another. Jesus said that the world will know you are my disciples if you love one another. How can our lack of devotion to each other be a stumbling block (verse 10) to the world and how can our devotion to each other be a witness to the world?