

Sunday, August 3, 2025 AM

AUTHENTIC FAITH: Something Old, Something New

Mike Teel, Pastor

FOCAL PASSAGE:

I John 2:7-11

(⁵ But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶ Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.) ⁷ Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. ⁸ Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. ⁹ Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. ¹⁰ Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. ¹¹ But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

LOVE AS AN _____

I John 2:7

⁷ Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard.

1. THE APOSTLE OF _____

--Throughout the centuries preachers, teachers and commentators have called John “**The Apostle of Love.**”

--His love for fellow believers to whom he wrote often expressed itself by the familiar term “Beloved (KJV) or Dear Friends (NIV)”. (See I John 3:2, 21; 4:1, 7; III John 2)

--Now John had not always been known as the “**Apostle of Love**”.

--Again we are reminded of the authentic change that takes place in the life of an individual when they have that life changing experience with Jesus.

2. _____ TO LOVE

--In a play on words, John wrote that the commandment to love was not a new commandment in one sense but was actually an old commandment.

--There is an inseparable link between obedience and loving God and one’s neighbor.

--“Love is the fulfillment of the law!”

3. OBEDIENCE IS _____ OF OUR LOVE FOR GOD

--Obedience to God’s Word is proof of our love for Him.

--John 14:15 says, ***“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”***

--There are three motives for obedience: Because we NEED to, we WANT to, and finally, because of LOVE.

--It is a mark of maturity when we begin obeying because of love.

--**QUESTION:** Do you really love God today? What motivates you to obey God?

4. ALWAYS _____ EVEN NOW!!!

--The truth that they and we are to love one another is something his readers and we have heard from the beginning.

--As humans we should love others but the capacity to fulfill this command is realized when we truly become a follower of Christ, when Jesus comes to reside in us through the Holy Spirit.

Question: Do you truly love God and love others?

LOVE IS A _____ COMMANDMENT

I John 2:8

⁸ Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

1. A _____?

--At first when you read this verse it seems that the “I am” is contradicting the “I am not” from verse 7.

--A closer look clearly reveals that John was using this seeming contradiction to clarify how the old commandment to love is at the same time not new and yet new or maybe the word fresh would be more appropriate.

2. THE NEW/FRESH _____

--Notice how he continues on with this statement: ***“its truth is seen in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.”*** - I John 2:8b.

--Here is what John is telling us. We now can see the value of the commandment to love God and others in the life of Jesus Christ.

--He states that it was seen in Him meaning in Jesus’ life. From the cradle to the cross Jesus was the prime example of what it meant to love and in particular love others.

--Perhaps the greatest thing about Jesus’ love was the way it touched even the lives of His enemies.

--In His life, in His teachings, and in His death, Jesus is the perfect example of this New Commandment, “Love One another.”

A _____ OF LIFE

I John 2:9-11

⁹ Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. ¹⁰ Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. ¹¹ But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

1. _____ IT OUT

--John continues to use the illustration of light and darkness indicating a person's walk with the Lord.

--If a Christian walks in the light and is in fellowship with God, he will be in fellowship with others in God's family. (Not saying we will all agree or all have the same mind set but we will not allow these differences to separate us from each other.)

--It is easy to talk about Christian love, but much more difficult to practice it.

Please note: It is impossible to be in fellowship with the Father and out of fellowship with another Christian at the same time.

2. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE _____

--This is one reason why God established the local church, the fellowship of believers.

--"You can't be a Christian alone." – a person cannot live a complete developing Christian life unless he is in fellowship with God's people. God did not design us to be Lone Ranger Christians.

--The Christian life has two relationships: the vertical (Godward) we are to serve and obey Him and the horizontal (manward) we are to represent God to others and help them discover their need for Christ.

--And each of these two relationships is to be one of love, one for the other.

3. SPIRITUAL _____

--The contrast between "saying" and "doing" is one we have seen addressed before (**I John 1:6,8, 10; 2:4, 6**)

--It is easy to practice a Christianity of "words." – singing the right songs, using the right vocabulary, praying the right prayers – and through it all, deceiving ourselves into thinking we are spiritual.

--Let our "yes" be "yes" and our "no" be "no".

--Christian love is not blinding as most people think. Instead we find life getting brighter and brighter the closer we get to God and the more light we walk in.

4. HATRED IS _____ PEOPLE TODAY

--Christians love is not a shallow sentiment, a passing emotion that we perhaps experience in a worship service.

--Christian love is a practical thing; it applies in the everyday affairs of life.

--In short, to love other Christians means to treat them the way God treats them—and the way God treats us.

--Christian love that does not show itself in action and in attitude (**I Corinthians 13:4-7**) is empty and ineffective.

5. WHEN BELIEVERS _____ LOVE OTHERS

... more next time!

LIVE IT OUT

> Are you expressing your love for God by being obedient?

> What is God asking you to do today, in regard to loving others?

> Have you had that life changing experience that allows you to develop love for others?