

The Test of Love

From the Series,
"Authentic Trust"

1 John 2:7-11
Preached Sunday 1/14/15
Meadow Baptist Church



TRANSFORMING TRUTH

Trends deceive. Traditions enslave. God's Truth transforms.

1. A Royal Command (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."

- a. John 15:12-13 - "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends."
- b. Matthew 22:37-39 - "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
- c. John 13:34-35 - "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

LOVE = SEEKING THE HIGHEST GOOD OF ANOTHER

2. A Recognized Connection (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."

- a. This truth is personified - "...It is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in Him..."
- b. This truth is promised - "It is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true...in you..."

- c. This truth is procured - "...because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining"

3. A Revealing Characterization (9-11)

"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."

- a. Those who refuse are characterized (9, 11)
 - i. What is declared - "Whoever says he is in the light ..."
 - ii. What is demonstrated - "...and hates his brother ..."
 - iii. What is determined - "...is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes."
- b. Those who receive are characterized (10) - "Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling."