

# Love & Light

Week 4: The New Commandment

# God is Love

God has revealed this marvelous truth- “God is love” (1 John 4:8,16)- but the converse is not true, love is not god. Love originates from our triune God and is seen in Jesus Christ. But love is not everything that God is.

# The *NEW* Commandment

We have heard of God's love from the very beginning, so in what sense is the commandment to love one another a *NEW* commandment? It is new when it looks like Jesus.

# Live Love New #1

Four ways in which Jesus made the commandment to love new - First, it was new in the **emphasis** He gave it. If we want to live love in a new way, we must raise its importance in our lives. “I will show this love to God and others.”

# Live Love New #2

Four ways in which Jesus made the commandment to love new-  
Secondly, it was new in the **quality** he gave it. If we want to live love in a new way, we must raise the quality of our love. “I will love as Jesus loved, dying to myself for the benefit of others. I will live selflessly, sacrificially for another.”

# How We Love

John 13:34-35, “So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. <sup>35</sup> Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

# Live Love New #3

Four ways in which Jesus made the commandment to love new-  
Thirdly, it was new in the **extent** he gave it. If we want to live love in a new way, we must not limit the who or when of our love. “I will love everybody always, even my enemies.”

# Live Love New #4

Four ways in which Jesus made the commandment to love new-fourthly, to continue new by our fresh **expression** of it. If we want to live love in a new way, we must embrace the challenge to seek it at all costs, and it will always cost us! “I will love like Jesus loved, and I freely admit I cannot do it apart from Him.”



# Love is Evidence

Loving others like Jesus loved us is living evidence of our new birth and constant assurance of our salvation. Loves proves our life.

G. Campbell Morgan said that the church did the most for the world when the church was the least like the world. Today, many churches have the idea they must imitate the world in order to reach the world. Beloved, our great nation will not collapse because of the evil peddlers of pornography or drugs, but because of Christians who are no longer as salt and light. Sinners will always act like sinners because that is all they can do! But when saints begin acting like sinners, their compromise hurts not only themselves and their families and churches, but ultimately contributes to the decay of the entire nation.

# Beam of Love

We don't earn or merit love from God by our own performance of love. Our love is the shining forth, the radiant beam, of His love through us. Real love is only God's supernatural love moving through us. Anything else is unable to point to Jesus and does not please Him at all or satisfy what He wants for the world. We must love like Jesus loved.