

The apostle John often describes himself as *the disciple that Jesus loved* (John 13:23, 19:26, 20:2, 21:7, 21:20). He had developed a deep understanding of the love God had towards him through his discipleship relationship with Jesus Christ emboldening and yet mellowing him to speak the truthful things of God in love (Eph. 4:15). To help us understand this, six times in his letters John calls us _____ (1 John 3:2, 21; 4:1, 7, 11; 3 John 1:2, 5, 11). Knowing how much we are loved causes us to love God back and do what we do from the motive of our love for Him. Today, John gives us the next part of this understanding concerning how we love each other in the family of God. These are his opening thoughts about brotherly love, a topic he will continue to speak about throughout the rest of his writing (1 John 3:11, 14; 4:7-8; 5:1).

Brotherly Love – 1 John 2:7-11

1. An Old Commandment and a New Commandment about Brotherly Love – v. 7-8

- Christians are brothers/sisters in Christ through our new birth – 1 John 3:1; Rom. 8:16-17; Eph. 2:19.
- Brotherly love was demonstrated and _____ through the example of the Lord Jesus Christ – 2 John 1:5; John 13:34-35, 15:12-13.

In him and in you (2 Cor. 13:5; Col. 1:27) =

- Brotherly love is not necessarily a new commandment, but it is newly _____ through Christ's example and indwelling – Lev. 19:18; Matt. 22:36-40.

The true light now shineth (2 Cor. 4:6-7; John 1:4-9) =

- The **1st example** of brotherly love in the Bible is an epic _____ – Gen. 4:1-12; 1 John 3:12; Jude 1:11; Gal. 5:15.

Note: *Our fellowship with God directly relates to our fellowship with one another.*

- A **2nd example** of brotherly love is a stunning _____ – 1 Sam. 18:1-4; 20:17, 41; 2 Sam. 1:26.

2. Abiding or Stumbling on Brotherly Love? – v. 9-11

- Walking with God in His light involves loving the people God loves or we are _____ blindly in darkness – Matt. 6:22-23; Eph. 5:8; Rom. 9:31-33; 1 Pet. 2:7-8; 1 Cor. 13:1-8.
- A glaring contrast of the churches of Philadelphia vs. Laodicea and brotherly love – Rev. 3:7-22.

Philadelphia (1500-1900AD) =

Laodicea (1900-present) =