

## 1 John 2:7-11 Joyful Assurance: In with the Old and Out with the New, Part 2

As we began to see last week, John is making sure that they understand that he is not writing a new gospel or a new commandment to them. v7

1. He is not forming a new religion.
2. He is preaching the same message, the same commandment that they have always been given!
3. And we saw this, I hope clearly last week.
  - a. This is what you heard when you first came to Christ
    1. God is holy
    2. Man is unholy and separated from God
    3. Christ came to reconcile us to the Father
    4. We must repent and put our faith and trust in Christ to have eternal life
  - b. This is what has been preached since the prophets as we saw in Isaiah 53
  - c. This message has been preached since the very beginning...even in Genesis 3
  - d. This has been the message since eternity past

If we understand the Old Commandment, it will produce obedience to the new commandment. We could say, “In with the old, and out with the new!” But, as this commandment takes root, it will bear fruit; and that fruit brings about a new command.

What is this new commandment? v8-11

1. The new commandment—fresh, not found exactly like this before.
2. This new commandment is true in Him AND in you because you are being sanctified
  - a. The darkness is passing away
  - b. The true light is already shining
  - c. It is like a spiritual sunrise is happening in you as the old commandment takes root
  - d. And as the old commandment comes IN, the new commandment, fresh commandment will come out!
3. What is this commandment? A life characterized by love.

### I. The one who hates

Verse 9 says, “*The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now.*”

This word “hates” can be literally translated as “detests” or even as “loves less.”

1. We understand hatred as detesting someone or some group.
  - a. That makes sense and it is biblical to say that if we hate we are not giving evidence that we are believers.
  - b. Color, culture, background, etc.
2. But we don't generally understand hatred as loving someone less.
  - a. We need to see how Scripture defines and describes words to get our definitions.
  - b. Luke 14:26 *If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple*
  - c. Luke 16:13 *No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other.*
  - d. A key word in our text is “brother.”
    1. If we hate or love less our brother, we are treading on dangerous ground
    2. James 2:1-11
    3. This does not mean that you like each other equally. But you love each other equally based upon the gospel of Jesus Christ.

3. If we detest or love less our brother or sister in the faith we are in darkness v9

a. Verse 11a What does this mean...in darkness?

b. Acts 26:17b-18 *I am sending you, to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me*

c. 1 Peter 2:9 *But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*

d. He is in darkness! Lost!

4. Verse 11b

a. He does not know where he is going because he is blind.

b. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 *And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

## II. The one who loves

The new commandment that comes out of those who have been redeemed is simply love.

1. Mark 12:28-31 *One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; 30 AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' 31 The second is this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these."*

2. Romans 13:8-10 *Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. 9 For this, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law*

Verse 10. What does it mean to love?

1. We need to be careful that we do not allow our culture, our common sense, or our opinions to define words!

2. How does the Bible define love?

3. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 *Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

4. Notice that the words Paul uses to describe love are rooted in action more so than feeling.

Notice, that in contrast to the one who hates his brother and dwells in darkness the one who loves his brother abides in, or dwells in the Light.

1. 1 John 1:5-10

2. Communicating / Illuminating / Penetrating

3. And then in chapter 2:1-6 we see what it looks like to walk in that Light

4. Because the one who loves walks in the light, he does not stumble.

Do you see what John is saying? If we get the Old Commandment so “in us” that the new commandment comes “out of us” we will not take the devil’s bait!

1. This word “cause for stumbling” in the Greek literally means “a stick for bait, generally a snare, a stumbling block.”
2. “the movable stick or trigger of a trap, trap-stick; a trap, snare; any impediment placed in the way and causing one to stumble or fall

What John is saying is that we need to get the old commandment (the gospel) IN us.

1. And once the old is IN us, the new will come OUT of us.
2. And if the new is coming out of us, a biblical love for God and biblical love for our neighbors, we will not stumble!
3. We will be walking in the Light, and if we walk in the Light as He is in the light, we will have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son will cleanse us from all our sin!

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Take some time to review the sermon notes from Sunday.
2. Was there anything from this sermon that was difficult to understand or that didn’t make sense to you? Discuss it with the group to try and get a better understanding.
3. What do we learn about God the Father....God the Son....and/or God the Holy Spirit from the main Scripture text that was used?
4. What do we learn about man from the main text?
5. Are there any commands to obey? Promises to believe? Sins to avoid in the main Scripture text?
6. What do you believe was the most impactful part of the sermon Sunday? Discuss.
7. How do you plan to apply some portion of what you learned to your life? For example, “In response to this sermon, I will \_\_\_\_\_