

WEEK 10: TEST OF LOVE– “HOW IS YOUR LOVE LIFE”
1 JOHN 2:7-11 Part 1

1John 2:3 And by **this we know** that we have come to know him, **if we keep his commandments**.

I. LOVE IS OLD

- A. 1Jo 2:7 ¶ 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.
- B. John is known as the “the apostle of love”
- C. Love is the foremost mark of a true believer.

- D. Jesus taught: Mat 22:36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And he said to him, "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. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

- E. If you are loving God and others as Christ intended, the rest will take care of itself!

- F. **Paul→ love was superior to any spiritual gift**
 - 1. 1Co 12:31 But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. . . . 13:13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; **but the greatest of these is love.**

- G. **John affirms that love is a benchmark of true salvation.**

- H. 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.
- I. “Beloved” directing his comments to fellow believers.

- J. I am writing you **no new commandment**, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning.
 - 1. Command to love is not a new >Love is taught in both OT and NT

- K. **God established the law of love early:** Det 6:5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

- L. **Taught to love one another, love our neighbors**
 - 1. Le 19:18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of **your own people**, but you shall **love your neighbor as yourself**: I am the LORD.
 - 2. We see love of Joseph even for his abusive brothers → Ge 45:15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

M. Paul linked love to obedience:

1. Ro 13:8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, . . .murder . . .steal . . . covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; **therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.**

N. John wrote, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning.

1. Love is commanded in OT, but **from the beginning** refers to the beginning of their Christian life.
2. Jesus taught the significance of love and linked to obedience to the Law of God.
3. Mt 22:35 And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Mt 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."
4. 2Jo 1:6 And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

O. John's teaching was based on all that the OT taught and all that Jesus taught.

II. LOVE IS NEW

- A. 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.
- B. This seems to contradict what John just said, but as John does in all of his writings, he wants us to really understand, so he repeats things multiple times so if we don't understand it one way then maybe more understandable another way.
- C. **At the same time, it is a new commandment**—>you may have looked at love different before Christ, but now deeper way to look at love you may not have noticed before.
- D. Word **new** "kainos" "kahee-nos'" – means fresh or of a new kind
- E. Love John describing is made fresh or new **which is true in him and in you**
- F. New because of Christ, new because you are new inside out.
- G. **Never know what love means until we see and know love of Christ and the love of God.**
- H. **God loved the world in Christ:** John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

- I. Jesus' perfect love was demonstrated on the cross. → John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone **lay down** his life for his friends.
- J. John 13:1 ¶ Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, **having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.**
- K. Love was not new itself, but **it was new in the ways Christ manifested it.**
- L. Jn 13:5 – loved them by modeling humility
- M. Jn 14:1 – loved them enough to go prepare a place for them in heaven
- N. Jn 14:25-26 - loved them enough to promise to never leave them alone – but a Helper would be sent to them
- O. John describes love **which is true in him** → it is ONLY TRUE IN CHRIST!
- P. **Rom 5** → **Jesus loved even while yet sinners**
 - 1. Ro 5:8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- Q. **new commandment. . .in you**
 - 1. **Through Christ, love is never the same in the believer– it is all new!**
 - 2. Ro 5:5 and hope does not put us to shame, because **God's love has been poured into our hearts** through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.
 - 3. God's love transforms us from who we were **before** Christ to a new person **in** Christ.
 - 4. 2Co 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. **The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.**
 - 5. Can Only know the love that John is describing here IF WE ARE NEW IN CHRIST!

III. LOVE DEMONSTRATES LIGHT

- A. because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining
- B. the true light is already shining – LIGHT IS JESUS CHRIST
 - 1. John 8:12 ¶ Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
- C. Light and darkness coexist in the world today but Jesus pushes out the darkness in the believer and **darkness is passing away**
- D. **Christ comes to the repentant sinner and delivers us from darkness to the kingdom of light.**
 - 1. Col 1:13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins

- E. Satan is the prince of darkness, Christ drives out darkness and brings light to all who trust
- F. Light of Christ will prevail and in the end, darkness and Satan will be cast out of this world

IV. LOVE IS DEFINING

- A. **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.**
- B. **Love is not just a characteristic of the believer, it defines the believer.**
- C. Love of God is poured into the believer
- D. Before Christ we lived in darkness, had no real love we existed for selfish affections and emotions.
- E. Christians manifest love as He loved us! Love's presence is an indicator of a transformed life.
- F. **Hate is NOT of Christ**—commanded to love your enemies, those who persecute you.
- G. John therefore makes the statement that those who hate are NOT of God
 - 1. This one who **hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness**
- H. Gnostics claimed to have been enlightened with higher knowledge of God than the common person, but they failed to show love to anyone.
 - 1. They hated the unenlightened ones, the common folk.
- I. John states that these that hate live in the kingdom of darkness and the **darkness has blinded his eyes**
- J. **Hate is a contradicts walking in the kingdom of light, walking with Christ, OF BEING IN CHRIST!**
- K. Love demonstrates true knowledge of God, of Eternal life.
- L. Those of the light not only love those in the light but also those that are in the world.
- M. Love them to take the gospel to them—> to bring light to them
- N. But those that “have not Love” (1 Cor 13:1-3)
 - 1. Are simply a noisy gong or clanging cymbal
 - 2. Are nothing at all
 - 3. They are as blind men—> who see no light at all!

V. Discussion Questions

- A. Why is there no middle ground between love and hate in the believer's life?
- B. How can John be so adamant that those that hate are blind to truth?
- C. How has God transformed love in you since the beginning of your salvation?