

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

Read 7-11

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. Mat 22:40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

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. New because of Christ, new because you are new inside out.→Love was not new itself, but **it was new in the ways Christ manifested it.**
- C. Ro 5:8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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.”

IV. LOVE IS DEFINING

- A. 1Jo 2:9 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.
- B. Contradictions between what one professes with the mouth and what is characteristic of their lives
- C. To be “in the light” is to be IN Christ, to have the true knowledge of the light of the Gospel
- D. One may professed to be an enlightened one and NOT be have any light in them at all
- E. “hates his brother”
 - 1. “brother” one by creation as all me are brothers, having one Father that made them
 - 2. One who is a brother by “regeneration”and in the household of God by faith in Christ
- F. To hate and not to love is inconsistent with being in the light, or having faith in Christ
- G. John says “you can profess what you will about being in the light, but if love for his brother is lacking, then he is still in darkness”
 - 1. This one is still in his “OLD nature”; Unregenerate which is a state of darkness

H. **Likely referring to the Jews who made hatred lawful**

1. Mt 5:43 ¶ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

I. John states that being in fellowship with Christ is exemplified by how we regard others!

J. **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.**

1. Hate is the mark or characteristic of a life lived in the kingdom of darkness.

K. **Love is not just a characteristic of the believer, it defines the believer.**

1. Love does NOT make one a believer, it does NOT make one to be in the light
2. Rather it is **because you are in the light**, because you are a believer

L. **Before Christ we lived in darkness**, had no real love, existed for selfish affections

M. **Love of God for the believer transcends before eternity began.**

1. God's love for His elect existed before anything began or was created.
2. Eph 2:1 ¶ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins :2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 . . we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind 4 ¶ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

N. Christians manifest love as He loved us! Love's dominance in our lives is an indicator of a transformed life.

O. **Hate is NOT of Christ**—commanded to love your enemies

P. You will never do that in the flesh—Without strength of the Holy Spirit empowering you.

Q. John therefore makes the statement: one who **hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness**

1. They live in darkness; They have NOT ever been enlightened by the true Light!

R. Gnostics claimed to have been enlightened with higher knowledge of God than the common person, **but they failed to show love to anyone.**

- S. John states these that hate live in the kingdom of darkness; **darkness has blinded his eyes**
1. **blinded** – mental discernment being blotted out, mind being darkened
 2. **his eyes**– metaphor for “the eyes of the mind”, the faculty of knowing
 3. There is a natural darkness of those that are of the lost world
 4. **Eph 4:18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.**

T. Hate is a contradiction of walking in the kingdom of light, of walking with Christ, OF BEING IN CHRIST!

U. Love, on the contrary, is a demonstration of the true knowledge of God, of Eternal life.

V. Those of the light not only love those in the light but also those that are in the world.

W. Those of the light Love the brothers in Christ enough to care for the their souls

X. But those that “have not Love” (1 Cor 13:1-3)

1. Are simply a noisy gong or clanging cymbal; Are nothing at all
2. They are as blind men→ who see no light!

V. How is your love life? Does love identify you? What things could you change to make love more evident in your life to those around you?

VI. Discussion Questions

A. What other traits does the love of God manifest in a believer?

B. Why is hate such an obvious characterization of the darkness?

C. How does love of those that are in the darkness differ from the love of those that are of the light?

D. How does the love of God affect your relationship with other believers?

E. How does the love of God affect your relationship with unbelievers?

F. Why does Christ expect us to love those that come against us?