

You Know When It's Real

A NEW KIND OF LOVE (1 John 2:7-11)

The Commandment “love one another” is new three in important ways:

I. The Old Commandment is New in _____ (1 John 2:7)

A. The Law of Love is unmistakable in the Old Testament.

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” (Deuteronomy 6:5)

“You shall not take vengeance, not bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord.” (Leviticus 19:18)

B. Love is the fulfillment of God's Law.

“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not covet,’ and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.” (Romans 13:8-10 NIV)

C. Love is in our hearts at the very beginning of the Christian life.

“We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brethren.” (1 John 3:14)

“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13: 35)

II. The Old Commandment is New in _____ (1 John 2:8)

Two Greek words for **new**: One means *new in time* and the other means *new in quality*.

A. Love expressed through Christ's life and ministry.

Example: Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet (John 13:1-17)

“Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:6-8 NLT)

B. Love expressed through the lives of believers.

“The love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (Romans 5:5)

“As to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you...for indeed you do practice it toward all...But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more.” (1 Thessalonians 4:9-10)

III. The Old Commandment is New in _____ (1 John 2:9-11)

- Those who walk the light practice _____; those who walk in darkness practice _____.

- What are the tragic results of hatred?

1. We live in the darkness. (1 John 2:9)

2. We become a cause for stumbling. (1 John 2:10)

“For that reason we should stop judging each other. We must make up our minds not to do anything that will make another Christian sin. If you hurt your brother's or sister's faith because of something you eat, you are not really following the way of love. Do not destroy someone's faith by eating food he thinks is wrong, because Christ died for him.” (Romans 14:13, 15, NCV)

3. We hinder a believer's spiritual progress.

- The benefits of practicing Christian love:

1. We will be living in fellowship with God and with other Christians.

2. We will not stumble or become stumbling blocks to others.

3. We will grow spiritually and will progress toward Christ-likeness.