

The Old/New Commandment

1 John 2:7-11

INTRODUCTION

1. John is writing to shepherd and pastor them (and therefore us).
2. John is writing to counter false teachers.
3. John is writing to show them the evidence of salvation in a person's life. **1 John 5:13**
 - OBEDIENCE. How do you live? God's people are living in obedience.
 - LOVE. How do you love? God's people are loving one another.
 - TRUTH. What do you believe? God's people are believing the truth about Jesus.

THE "OLD" COMMANDMENT. v.7

1. What is the commandment?
 - The commandment is to love God and love one another. See immediate context of v. **9-10**.
2. How is it an "old" commandment?
 - It is "old" b/c it was originally given centuries ago in the OT. Lev. 19:18; Deut. 6:5-6; Mt 22:36-40
 - John calls it "old" b/c it is the same commandment they had always heard as Christians. **v.7b**

THE "NEW" COMMANDMENT. v.8

1. Jesus called it a "new" commandment.
→ John 13:34-35: *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*
2. How is it a "new" commandment?
 - It is "new" because Jesus broadened the command to love those outside the Jewish community.
 - OT (Leviticus 19:18): love your neighbor [Jewish nation]
 - NT (John 13:34): love one another [everyone—Gentiles too!]
 - It is "new" because Jesus taught that our love for one another is to be based upon His love for us.
 - OT: (Leviticus 19:18): love your neighbor as yourself
 - NT (John 13:34): love one another just as I have loved you

2nd EVIDENCE OF SALVATION: LOVE FOR YOUR BROTHER. v.9-11

1. The false profession: words without love. v.9
 - Note connection to v.4 and v.6: "Whoever says..." (Words and actions go together; talk & walk); 1 Jn 4:20
2. The genuine believer: love coming from living in the light. v.10
 - The genuine believer is known by how he lives. **1 Jn 3:18**
 - The genuine believer loves his brother, abides in the light, and has "no cause for stumbling."
3. The lost un-believer: hate leading to greater darkness. v.11
 - The un-believer "hates" his brother and is spiritually "lost." Ref. 1 Cor 2:14; Eph 2:1-3
 - The un-believer's life is characterized by a practical lack of love. "...walks in the darkness" Mt 25:41-46
 - The un-believer cannot even see his own blindness. "...has blinded his eyes." Ref. 2 Cor 4:4

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS: HOW DO WE LOVE 'AS HE AS LOVED US'?

1. God's love is not based upon merit or worthiness. Romans 5:8
2. God loved his enemies. Romans 5:10: "while we were enemies"; Rom 12:14: bless those who persecute you
3. God's love is patient when wronged. Mt. 18:22: 1 Cor 13:4
4. God's love is costly; He paid a debt he did not owe. Phil 2:5-8. We are called to love in a costly way.
5. God's love perseveres in hardship. Rom 8:35f. We are called to love one another when things are difficult.
6. God's love pursues us when we fall into sin. Luke 15:4-7. We are called to pursue a brother when he is in sin.
7. God's love is based upon a commitment (a covenant), not a feeling. Gen 12:1-2; 17:2

To live in love with saints above—Oh, that will be glory. But to live below with saints we know—now that's a different story!