

1 John 2:7-10

Review

The Test of Knowing Him

Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. 1 John 2:3-6

Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. 1 John 2:7

Brethren, I write no new commandment to you

Love to men was inculcated (taught) in the Old Testament. Christ not only taught it more clearly, but perfectly exemplified it, and thus presented to men new motives, and laid them under new obligations habitually to exercise it. *Family Bible Notes*

1 John 3:11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

1 Thessalonians 4:9 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.

John is reminding us what Jesus told His disciples at the Passover meal on the night He was betrayed by Judas. After Judas was gone, Jesus spoke to the remaining eleven:

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 15:12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

Christian love teaches us to value our brother's soul, and to dread everything hurtful to his purity and peace. *Matthew Henry Concise Commentary*

Jesus command was to love. His love is energized by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.

Jesus raised love to a higher standard for the Church and commanded the disciples to imitate His love. Jesus was the perfect example of love. He displayed the compassion

and tenderness that God has for mankind. He did not look like anything the Pharisees described Him to be. The love Jesus had poured into the disciples must now be poured into each other if His message were to impact the world after He was gone. Jesus message of love was a continuing love for each other. Jesus told His hearers in **Matt 5:43-44** **“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.’”** Followers of Christ are recognized by their love for each other. If we love God, we must love others as well, including our enemies.

Would loving our enemies change the present atmosphere of this world?

Why do think Jesus and His disciples talked about “love one another” 22 times in the New Testament?

In this world of darkness and hate it is a great reminder that we need to value and love one another including our enemies.

But an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning.

This was in fact an old commandment, one which they have always had. There was nothing new in what John was teaching about love.

Leviticus 19:18 **“You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”**

Leviticus 19:34 **The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.**

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 **“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”**

It was ever the command of God that men should receive his light, walk by that light, and love him and one another. But this commandment was renewed by Christ with much latitude and spirituality of meaning; and also, with much additional light to see its extent, and grace to observe it. It may therefore be called the OLD commandment, which was from the beginning; and also, a NEW commandment revealed afresh and illustrated by Christ, with the important addition to the meaning of Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye shall love the brethren so as to lay down your lives for each other. *Adam Clarke's Commentary*

Love is the fulfillment of the law.

Matthew 22:37-40 **Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great**

commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Romans 13:8 &10 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

James 2:8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.

What have been people’s reactions when you have showed them God’s love?

Something to ponder: Am I a giver of God’s love to others?

Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. 1 John 2:8

Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true

True - Evident, or verified, fulfilled, exemplified.

That is, which commandment or law of love was illustrated in him, or was manifested by him in his intercourse with his disciples. That which was most prominent in him was this very love which he enjoined on all his followers. *Albert Barnes NT Commentary*

In Him and in you

Jesus is the perfect expression of the truth. Christ came to earth to give us truth, and as believers, we have received this truth.

The Greek word for “truth” is aletheia, which literally means to “un-hide” or “hiding nothing.” It conveys the thought that truth is always there, always open and available for all to see, with nothing being hidden or obscured. The Hebrew word for “truth” is emeth, which means “firmness,” “constancy” and “duration.” This definition implies an everlasting substance and something that can be relied upon.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 18:37 Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered, “You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

Because the darkness is passing away

“Because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. The ancient systems of error, under which men hated each other, have passed away, and you are brought into the light of the true religion. Once you were in darkness, like others; now the light of the pure gospel shines around you, and that requires, as its distinguishing characteristic, love. Religion is often represented as light; and Christ spoke of himself, and was spoken of, as the light of the world.” *Albert Barnes NT Commentary*

The enemy wanted to hide the truth of the gospel of Christ and was defeated at Calvary. All glory and honor to God the Father who sent His precious son, Jesus Christ, the Light of the world so that we have the power of the indwelling Spirit shining in our hearts and reflecting His love and grace as we abide in Him and He in us.

The true light is already shining

Jesus the Messiah, the True Light, has come into the world and is already shining forth the truth. The coming of Jesus Christ was the fulfillment and embodiment of the light that God had placed inside the heart of man.

John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life.”

John 9:5 “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

John 12:36 “While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.” These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.

Where is the best place for light to demonstrate its power?

Light exposes that which is hidden in darkness. Light shows things as they really are. Praise God we have been given His light.

Isaiah 60:1-2 Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you.

Psalm 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.

How can others see His light shining in our lives?

The way we shine is important to a darkened world.

Matt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

John 15:8 This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, proving yourselves to be My disciples.

To walk in the light means to know and walk in His truth...

True discipleship first, is belief in Jesus Christ Messiah and Son of God. Secondly, they will persevere and obey the Scriptures. True disciples will habitually abide in Jesus words and seek to grow in knowledge, truth and faithfully follow Him.

John 8:31-32 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

3 John 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

To walk in the light means to live in righteousness...

Here is the Old Testament picture of imputed righteousness, the essential heart of the New Covenant. When a repentant sinner recognizes they cannot achieve their own righteousness by works, repents, and calls on the mercy of God, the Lord covers him with His own divine righteousness by grace through his faith.

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Romans 3:21-22 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference.

2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Philippians 3:9 And may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.

To walk in the light means to share the message of salvation...

Without the sacrifice of Jesus, we were all dead in sin. The wonder of salvation is that we were not only saved out of an eternity in hell, but to a life in Christ. We are now invited into fellowship with God and made part of His family. May we never tire of hearing or telling the gospel message! Our work is to shine the truth of the gospel of Christ into the lives of others, in word and in deed. We are to be used by Him by proclaiming the truth. There is only one message that brings eternal healing.

Mark 16:5 He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”

1 Tim 2:3-6 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there

is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

What are some ways we can share the gospel during this pandemic?

He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. 1 John 2:9

He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother

The New Strong's Concordance defines hate: to detest (especially to persecute).

He therefore that hateth his brother, a thing so contrary to the design of the gospel, whatever he pretends, is still in darkness, under the power of the unregenerate principle of impure and malignant darkness: the gospel hath done him no good, is to him but an impotent and ineffectual light, in the midst whereof, by stiff winking, and an obstinate resistance, an exclusion of that pure and holy light, he creates to himself a dark and a hellish night. *Matthew Poole's Commentary*

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

Is in darkness until now

Ellicott's Commentary states, "This describes the acts of the man whose selfishness or other sins interfere with his love. Such are all insisting upon class distinctions; all ambitions, political, social, or personal; everything that savours of shrinking from "in honour preferring one another."

The false teachers made claims to enlightenment, transcendent knowledge of God, and salvation, but their actions, especially the lack of love, proved all their claims were false.

Where spiritual darkness dwells, in mind, the judgment, and the conscience will be darkened, and will mistake the way to heavenly life. These things demand serious self-examination; and earnest prayer, that God would show us what we are, and whither we are going. *Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary*

What truths did you discover from Matthew Henry's comment?

The true light of the Gospel, creates perfect light and love.

Light involves love: and love, light. Love, and you are in the light. Indulge hatred or ill-will and you began to grope in darkness. *FB Meyer Commentary*

He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. 1 John 2:10

He who loves his brother abides in the light

Oh, I love my brother, this verse doesn't apply to me. But do we really love our brother? How about when he cuts you off on the freeway and almost hits you. Do you still love your brother then?

As believers, we are to love others from a pure heart. When we love like Christ loves, His light shines through us. To be in the light, signifies to be under the transforming, governing power of it.

Romans 8:9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

And there is no cause for stumbling in him

Stumble in Greek comes from the word skandolon what word in English does that sound like? The English word is scandal. There should be no inconsistent thing, that ought to cause him to judge otherwise of himself, or others to think otherwise of him. They should not be a stumbling-block, an impediment, or anything which causes self or others to fall into sin.

John 11:9-10 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."

2 Peter 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble.

Albert Barnes NT Commentary states it best - A stumbling-block literally means anything laid in a man's path, over which he may fail. In the Scriptures, however, the word is used commonly in a figurative sense, to denote anything which shall cause him to sin, as sin is often represented by falling. And the passage means, that we should resolve to act so as not by any means to be the occasion of leading our brethren into sin, either by our example, or by a severe and harsh judgment, provoking them to anger, or exciting jealousies, and envyings, and suspicions. No better rule than this could be given to promote peace. If every Christian, instead of judging his brethren severely, would resolve that he would so live as to promote peace, and so as not to lead others into sin, it would tend more, perhaps, than any other thing to advance the harmony and purity of the church of Christ.

Romans 13:8 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

If we love our neighbors and enemies the way Christ loves us, would we commit adultery? Murder? Steal? Lie or misrepresent the truth?

Romans 14:13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.

Something to ponder: Does our lifestyle cause others to stumble?

Let us pray:

Lord we need Your supernatural love to overflow in us to love others, including our enemies. The world will know us by our love for one another. May we continue to love the brethren and others around us. Let the world see Your love flowing through us. May we bring honor and glory to You by our lights shining so bright in our lives that people cannot help but notice. Lord, we pray especially that we would not be stumbling blocks to our brothers and sisters. May we be there to build one another up and to encourage one another in your Word and your truth. We are so grateful for belonging to the family of God! We thank you Lord. Amen