

“1st John Part 4 - The New-Old Commandment” (5-5-24)

Living in the Light

Review: God is Light, Krystal: Walk in the Light, Jesus is Advocate, Commander, & Guide

Today (Main Text: 1st John 2:7-11)

1 John 2:7-11 (ESV)

(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. (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. (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. (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.

Let's explore each verse . . .

1 John 2:7 (ESV)

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.

Note: Love has always been God's command (see OT verses and Jesus re-affirmation of them) . . .

The 10 Commandments (From Exodus 20:1-17)

- No other gods
- No idols
- Do not take the Lord's name in Vain
- Keep the Sabbath
- Honor your parents
- Don't murder
- Don't commit adultery
- Don't steal
- Don't bear false witness
- Don't covet

Let's look at Jesus' answer when asked which is the greatest command . . .

Mark 12:28-31 (ESV)

(28) And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” (29) Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. (30) And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ (31) The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Note: Jesus affirms and summarizes the Law in 2 statements . . .

- **Love God** - Jesus is quoting Deut. 6:5 (which covers the 1st 4 of the 10 commandments)

Deuteronomy 6:5 (ESV)

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

- **Love your Neighbor** - Jesus is quoting Lev. 19:18 (which covers the last 6 commandments)

Leviticus 19:17-18 (ESV)

(17) “You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. (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.

1 John 2:8 (ESV)

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.

Note: Jesus made it “new” in that these commandments were true in Him! And John is saying they are true in us now too - because we are in Him!

How did Jesus make these commands new? He left no room for gray . . . We are to love all!

Some Examples:

- **Everyone is your neighbor** - Good Samaritan Story (Luke 10:25-37)
- **Love your enemies** - (Matthew 5:43-44)
- **Love at its best is sacrificial** - (John 15:12-13)

Take Note - Jesus didn't just say all of this, He lived it . . .

- He loved and ministered to Samaritans, Roman Soldiers, etc.
- He loved His enemies - dying for them and forgiving them even as they killed him
- He was love at its best - laying down his life for all

And John is saying this is true in us as His people - the darkness is fading as His light shines through us!

Remember last week - “whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected.” (1 John 2:5a)

So now the litmus test for all of us - where the rubber really meets the road:

1 John 2:9-11 (ESV)

(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. (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.

Note: Honest reflection is being called for - Walking in the light is loving well.

Jesus calls us out of darkness into the light, so be careful that you don't settle for walking in the “gray”!

Jesus' words and actions showed us there are no excuses to write people off and stop showing love.

John is saying that when we hate someone, then we are now walking blind. And we can be fooled into thinking we are walking rightly and feel totally justified, when in reality we are way off course.

Application: Consider - have you excused yourself from loving someone as Jesus would? Have you created a category that gives you an excuse to stop loving someone?

Conclusion: This morning, let us consider the love of Jesus. And then let's see if we are truly walking in the light, so we may continue to be perfected in love, instead of stumbling in the dark.