

Message Series: I John, “The Way of Love”

Lesson for the Week: 5/2/21

Title: “How To Love Others As Christ Loves us”

Text: 1 John 2:7-11 and John 15:9-13

1 John 2:7-11 *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.*

John 15:9-13 *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 **My command is this:** Love each other as I have loved you.*

Summary: This love does not add to the gospel, it stands at the heart of the gospel!!!

John says that this is a love that you have had “from the beginning.” This is the 3rd time that he has used that phrase in this book (1:1, 2:24, 3:11) and every time, he is referring to when you first heard and received the gospel message. John’s argument is that this is not only nothing new, it is also something that everyone who hears the gospel must assume as his responsibility! John’s opponents had minimized the importance of loving each other, and John says that a true believer in Christ would never do that!

Discussion Questions

1. Begin with prayer.
2. What are the keywords in this passage, list as many as you can and share why you think they are important. Do any of these words need definitions or further explanation?
3. In what ways do the truths in these passages challenge or convict you? List the truth(s) and in what way or how it challenges you?
4. What steps can I take to honor God in applying these truths in this passage to my life?
5. Read verse 8 again: “*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.*” How is the “darkness passing away” considering this was written more than 1900 years ago and the darkness still seems as strong as ever?

The unloving attitude that pervades our society, and has sadly seemed to creep into our churches is an attitude that the apostle John clearly wants nothing to do with. Let’s admit it, there are times we may struggle to love each other or find some harder to love than others. Even though this sad truth is a reality, John’s argument in I John 2:7-11 is very clear, and it is incredibly strong. Here is the heart of what John is saying, “Because true Christians are identified by love, you must love others.”

Close in Prayer:

Jesus, you are the author and originator of love. We only know love because you are love and you loved us first. You love us specifically and sacrificially. You love us in our sin and rebellion against you. You love us despite the pain we inflict on others. You love us in our mess. It is that love - that selfless, self-sacrificing love, which allows us to love others. It is an overflow of your love for us that allows us to love other people. Jesus, we ask you to make us better lovers of one another. Would you give us the heart and love to proclaim your love to those who need to hear it?