

Study of 1 John (1Jn 2:7-11)



Truth Matters Church, Inc.

1

Key themes so far



- ☞ Defends Christology (Jesus the God-Man)
 - ☞ 1Jn 1:1-4
- ☞ John reaffirms the gospel message
 - ☞ 1Jn 1:5-10
- ☞ John reaffirms the necessity of working out our salvation
 - ☞ 1Jn 2:1-6

2

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 - ☞ 1Jn 2:1-6
- ☞ John reaffirms the old and new commandment
 - ☞ 1Jn 2:7-11

3

Scripture Reading



1 John 2:7-11 (NASB Strong's)

7 Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard. 8 On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining. 9 The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. 10 The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. 11 But the one who 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.

4

Overview of today's passage



- ☞ John reaffirms the old and new commandment
 - ☞ 1Jn 2:7-11

Doctrine:

- ☞ Heart of God ("Beloved")
- ☞ We're going to look at both:
 - ☞ The old commandment
 - ☞ The new commandment

Application:

- ☞ How we can demonstrate God's love

5

Exposit: 1Jn 2:7



7 Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard.

- ☞ "Beloved" (6x in this letter)
- ☞ "old commandment"

6

“Beloved”



Greek ‘agapētos’ which means one who is loved, very dear

Although:

☞ “God is love (agapē)” - 1Jn 4:7

☞ “for God so loved the world” - Jn 3:16

Only believers (the elect):

☞ are beloved (agapētos) of God

☞ are recipients of God’s love

7

“Beloved”



Paul affirms this in the opening of Romans:

Romans 1:7

7 to all who are beloved (agapētos) of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

☞ God’s grace and peace only applies to believers (not unbelievers)

John 3:18

18 He who believes in Him is not judged (receives God’s grace and peace); he who does not believe has been judged already (will receive God’s condemnation and wrath), because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:36

36 He who believes in the Son has eternal life (has God’s grace and peace); but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him (does not have God’s grace and peace).”

8

“Beloved”



Not only are believers (the elect) beloved (agapētos) of God, but Jesus is beloved (agapētos) by God the Father

Matthew/Mark/Luke records this, we’ll read Matthew’s:

Matthew 3:16-17

16 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, 17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is My **beloved (agapētos)** Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”

9

“Beloved”



So the beloved (agapētos) of God the Father are:

- ☞ Jesus the Son of God
- ☞ Believers the children of God

Other Scriptures to expand on this...

10

“Beloved”



Ephesians 1:3-6

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the **Beloved (agapaō)**.

John 3:35

35 The Father **loves (agapaō)** the Son and has given all things into His hand.

Let's pull this together to get to a marvelous truth...

11

“Beloved”



TRUTH:

- ☞ The same love God the Father loves the Son...
- ☞ Is the same love God the Father has for believers!

Q: Who does God the Father love more?
Jesus or believers?

A: Yes! Amen!
God the Father eternally loves the Son!
God the Father eternally loves believers!

12

Exposit: 1Jn 2:7



7 Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard.

- ☞ “Beloved” (6x in this letter) ✓
- ☞ “old commandment”

13

“old commandment”



Greek for ‘old’ is ‘palaios’ which means ancient

In v. 7 John says:

- ☞ I’m not writing a new commandment...
- ☞ I’m writing an old (ancient) commandment
- ☞ “which you have had from the beginning”
 - ☞ ‘beginning’: archē which means elementary
- ☞ old/ancient commandment = OT, specifically, the Law (or Torah)

14

Exposit: 1Jn 2:7



7 Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning (in elementary school); the old commandment is the word which you have heard (the Law of Moses).

- ☞ "Beloved" ✓
- ☞ "old commandment" = "is the word" = Torah ✓

15

Exposit: 1Jn 2:8



8 On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining.

- ☞ On one hand John is referring to the Torah (v. 7)
- ☞ On the other hand John is writing a "new commandment" (v. 8)

16

“new commandment”



There are 2 Greek words translated ‘new’ in English
 ‘kainos’ which means fresh, new thing, superior (used in v. 8)
 ‘neos’ which means young, immature

(Jewish New Testament Commentary)

"Neos" means "new" in respect to time, implying immaturity or lack of development.

"Kainos" means "new" or "renewed" in respect to quality, contrasting with "old" or "not renewed" and implying superiority.

1 Corinthians 11:25

25 In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, “This cup is the **new (kainos)** covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

17

“new commandment”



- ☞ What is John referring to when he says “I am writing a kainos [fresh, new, superior] commandment?”
- ☞ Well in context he’s contrasting with the old commandment
 - ☞ The Torah
- ☞ He says further in the same verse:
 - ☞ “which is true in Him and in you”
- ☞ So this new, superior commandment is in Jesus and in believers

18

“which is true in Him and in you”



- ☞ What was the OT commandments written on?
 - ☞ Tablets of stone
- ☞ What is the NT commandments written on?
 - ☞ The human heart

Matthew 22:37-40

37 And He said to him, “ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ (Deu 6:5) 38 This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ (Lev 19:18) 40 **On these two commandments (NT/new covenant)** depend the whole Law (Torah) and the Prophets. (OT Scripture)”

Romans 2:28-29

28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. 29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that **which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter (tablets of stone nor parchments)**; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

19

“new commandment”



- ☞ John quotes Jesus on what this “new commandment is” in his gospel:

John 13:31-35

31 Therefore when he (Judas) had gone out (to betray Jesus), Jesus *said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him; 32 if God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and will glorify Him immediately. 33 Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ 34 **A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.** 35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

- ☞ “new commandment” is part of the “new covenant”

20

“new covenant”



- ☞ When John says I’m writing a “new commandment” he is contrasting the old vs. new covenant!
- ☞ The old covenant was young, not fully mature, only made it on stone, parchments
- ☞ The new covenant is new, fully mature, superior because it made it to the human heart!
- ☞ This new covenant was instituted during the Last Supper
 - ☞ Begins with the church, then will end with the nation Israel

Romans 11:25-27

25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery – so that you will not be wise in your own estimation – that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; 26 and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written,
 “The Deliverer will come from Zion,
 HE will remove ungodliness from Jacob.”
 27 “**This is MY covenant** with them,
 When I take away their sins.”

21

“new covenant”



Hebrews 8:10-12

10 “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel
 After those days (the Great Tribulation), says the Lord:

I will put MY laws into their minds,
And I will write them on their hearts.

And I will be their God,

And they shall be MY people.

11 “And they shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen,

And everyone his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’

For all will know ME,

From the least to the greatest of them.

12 “For I will be merciful to their iniquities,

And I will remember their sins no more.”

13 When He said, “**A new covenant,**” **He has made the first (old covenant) obsolete.** But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

22

“new commandment”



So when John said that he is writing a new commandment:

- ☞ He is reaffirming the old commandment
 - ☞ Love God with all your heart/mind/soul/strength
 - ☞ Love your neighbor as your self
 - ☞ However, this is becoming obsolete
- ☞ Now the new commandment is this:
 - ☞ Love believers with all your heart/mind/soul/strength
 - ☞ Believers are not just your neighbors
 - ☞ Neighbors are not your eternal family
 - ☞ Believers are your eternal family
 - ☞ Israel as a nation for now are enemies of the gospel, but after the Great Tribulation the nation Israel will embrace Christ and become part of our eternal family (144K sealed)

23

Exposit: 1Jn 2:8



8 On the other hand, I am writing a [fresh, new] commandment [NT/new covenant] to you, which is true in Him and [written] in [your heart], because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining.

- ☞ “darkness is passing away”
- ☞ “the true Light is already shining”

24

“the darkness is passing away”



- ☞ “is passing away” is in the present tense
 - ☞ Happening now as we speak

We are living in the last days (between Jesus’s 1st & 2nd coming)

- ☞ From our vantage point; darkness is not passing away (increasing)
- ☞ From God’s vantage point; darkness is passing away (already began in us)
 - ☞ Darkness along with death will be swallowed up in Christ’s victory:

1 Corinthians 15:54-57

54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, **“Death is swallowed up in victory.”** 55 O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; 57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

25

“the darkness is passing away”



- ☞ In context “darkness is passing away”
 - ☞ Presently in believers
- ☞ In this epistle, “darkness” is contrasted with “Light” which is already shining

26

“the true Light is already shining”



As we covered in past study:

- ☞ Seeing Jesus’s righteousness = Light, is Life
- ☞ Jesus = righteousness/light/good/life/love
- ☞ Jesus ≠ unrighteousness/darkness/evil/sin/death

Paul give us more color on darkness vs. light:

2 Corinthians 4:5-6

5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus’ sake. 6 For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

- ☞ When God said “Let there be Light” (and divided light from darkness), God proclaimed “Let all see the glory of God in the face of Jesus!”

27

“the true Light is already shining”



- ☞ So when John says “the true Light is already shining”, He’s proclaiming that the Son of God has been revealed in the face of Jesus Christ!
- ☞ And that Light has been made manifest in our own heart!
- ☞ Furthermore, John is saying believers are presently being sanctified (darkness is passing away) and this is evident by how we live (the true Light is already shining in our lives)

28

Catarroja AMP: 1Jn 2:8



8 On the other hand, I am writing a [fresh, new, superior] commandment [new covenant] to you, which is true in Him and [written] in [your heart], because the darkness is passing away [Jesus has come in the flesh and you are presently being sanctified in faith] and the true Light is already shining [which is evident by the proclamation of the gospel and you living in light of the gospel].

29

Exposit: 1Jn 2:9



9 The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now.

John is getting at the heart (Spirit) of God's Law:

- ☞ God doesn't look on the outside, but looks in the inside
- ☞ It's one thing to say you're a Christian, it's another thing to show that you're a Christian
- ☞ If you say you're a Christian, yet you hate (are against, is unloving to) another fellow Christian, you are in darkness (sanctification is not present in your life). You're not saved right now.

30

Spirit of God's Law



Matthew 5:21-22 (in the Beatitudes)

21 "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not commit murder' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

- ☞ Murder is not only a punishable offense deserving of hell
- ☞ So is anger/tearing someone down/viewing someone as worthless/calling someone stupid are punishable offenses deserving of hell

31

Spirit of God's Law



☞ What we say, think, do in our heart is the same as committing the act

☞ So if we love other believers with empty words (lip service), but instead hate them in our heart, we violated the Spirit of God's Law

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

☞ John is saying if you have hate in your heart towards another believer, you are deceived if you think you're a Christian and are saved

32

Exposit: 1Jn 2:10



10 The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

- ✧ In contrast, the Christian who loves a fellow Christian, truly abides in the Light (is a true follower of Christ) and will not stumble in faith
- ✧ In Jesus's sheeps/goats judgment after the Great Tribulation we see examples of how it is we love fellow believers....

33

Examples of Demonstrating Love



Matthew 25:31-40

31 "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; 33 and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

34 "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; 36 naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? 38 And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? 39 When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 40 The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

34

Examples of Demonstrating Love



- ☞ Providing food to believers in need
- ☞ Providing shelter to believers who are homeless
- ☞ Providing clothes to believers who cannot afford to buy them
- ☞ Praying for believers when sick, weak, and feeble
- ☞ Visiting believers who are in prison for being a being a Christian

Did not John the Baptist say the same thing...

35

Examples of Demonstrating Love



Luke 3:10-14

10 And the crowds were questioning him [John the Baptist], saying, "Then what shall we do?" 11 And he would answer and say to them, "The man who has two tunics (undergarments) is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise." 12 And some tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" 13 And he said to them, "Collect no more than what you have been ordered to." 14 Some soldiers were questioning him, saying, "And what about us, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not take money from anyone by force, or accuse anyone falsely, and be content with your wages."

- ☞ In Jesus's day, a Jew having only one tunic is considered poor
- ☞ Thus, sharing your tunic with one who had none, you are making yourself poor that you might become rich!

Is this what Paul said that Jesus Himself demonstrated...

36

Examples of Demonstrating Love



2 Corinthians 8:9

9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

37

Examples of Demonstrating Love



Thus, a way to love (live in the Light), is to sacrificially demonstrate love:

- ☞ Providing food to believers in need
- ☞ Providing shelter to believers who are homeless
- ☞ Providing clothes to believers who cannot afford to buy them
- ☞ Praying for believers when sick, weak, and feeble
- ☞ Visiting believers who are in prison for being a Christian
- ☞ Not extorting or exploiting others for personal gain

Jesus said that when we do such acts of love, we do it unto Christ Himself!

38

Exposit: 1Jn 2:11



11 But the one who 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.

- ✧ In contrast, the Christian who refuses to love a fellow Christian, is not truly a follower of Christ, and will stumble and fall short of faith
- ✧ In Jesus's sheeps/goats judgment after the Tribulation we see examples of how it is if we refuse to love fellow believers....

39

Examples of Not Demonstrating Love



Matthew 25:41-46

41 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; 42 for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; 43 I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.' 44 Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' 45 Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' 46 These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

40

Examples of Not Demonstrating Love



- ❧ NOT Providing food to believers in need
- ❧ NOT Providing shelter to believers who are homeless
- ❧ NOT Providing clothes to believers who cannot afford to buy them
- ❧ NOT Praying for believers when sick, weak, and feeble
- ❧ NOT Visiting believers who are in prison for being a being a Christian
- ❧ Extorting or exploiting others for personal gain

We can see an example of a heart not loving God in the Rich Young Ruler

41

Examples of Not Demonstrating Love



Matthew 19:16-26

16 And someone came to Him and said, "Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?" 17 And He said to him, "Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments." 18 Then he *said to Him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not commit murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; 19 Honor your father and mother; and You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 20 The young man *said to Him, "All these things I have kept; what am I still lacking?" 21 Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." 22 But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property.

23 And Jesus said to His disciples, "Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." 25 When the disciples heard this, they were very astonished and said, "Then who can be saved?" 26 And looking at them Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

42

How to/how to not love God



- ☞ We're not loving God when:
 - ☞ We choose temporal things (riches, possessions, comfort, pleasure) over Him
 - ☞ We're unwilling to share what God has given us to believers in need
- ☞ We loving towards God when:
 - ☞ We choose God over temporal things (riches, possessions, comfort, pleasure)
 - ☞ We're willing to share what God has given to us to believers in need
 - ☞ Don't look down or discriminate against fellow believers
 - ☞ Regardless of their social standing, age, race, or if male/female
 - ☞ Don't take advantage of them for personal gain
- ☞ When we demonstrate such love to God and believers:
 - ☞ We do unto Christ
 - ☞ We're in darkness and not in Light
 - ☞ We are showing ourselves to be children of God are part of God's family and are saved

43

Catarroja AMP: 1Jn 2:11



11 But the one who hates (and does not demonstrate love to) his brother (other believers) is in the darkness (is not saved) and walks in the darkness (in the blindness of his sin), and does not know where he is going because the darkness (of his sins) has blinded his eyes (to his true spiritual condition).

To put it simply:

John is saying in very eloquent words we ought to obey the gospel and obey Jesus's command to love one another as Christ has loved us

44