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Youth E.D.G.E. Sunday School

Back to the Basics: A Study of 1 John - Part IV

THE NEW COMMANDMENT: LOVE MUST BE YOUR I.D.

1 John 2:7-11

- I. Because true Christians are identified by love, you must look to the Scriptures, and see the mandate for Christian love (v. 7).

As John begins to talk about the test of love, he makes it clear that this is not something that is new to them! True Christian love is understood in the Scriptures.

A. Christian love is enduring.

This is not a new commandment. It has always been understood that true followers of Christ will love each other.

B. Christian love is important.

You can't love or understand the gospel without understanding your responsibility to love one another.

- II. Because true Christians are identified by love, you must look to Jesus, and see the example of perfect love (v. 8).

The commandment to love is not new, but the quality of love that is displayed by Jesus is completely new!

A. The life of Jesus displayed his perfect love.

The life of Jesus gave love a new quality, emphasis, and extension. You must adopt this love (John 13:34).

B. The life of Jesus defeats sin.

You must anchor yourself to the unchangeable love of Jesus that drives out the darkness!

- III. Because true Christians are identified by love, you must look at yourself, and see if you possess Christian love (v. 9-11).

In each of these three concluding verses, John includes a test that you should consider.

A. The presence of Christian love in your life is all or nothing (v. 9).

Hate is the absence of the deeds of love. Love unexpressed is not love at all. You either hate someone, or you actively show them love. There is no middle ground.

B. The presence of Christian love in your life will keep you grounded (v. 10).

Christian love is the basic principle of the faith that will keep you grounded against falling into sin.

C. The absence of Christian love in your life brings great danger (v. 11).

There is a huge difference between being in darkness (v. 8), and walking in darkness (v. 11). Not loving your brother not only contradicts the true claims of Christianity, but it also contributes to spiritual downfall.

