

The First Epistle of John

(Week 10 – 1John 2:7-8)

- I. Week-9 Quiz (First Quarter)
 - A. Have the disciples do the quiz before class starts
 - B. Go over the answers by way of asking.

- II. Quick Review:
 - A. Walking in the light involves:
 1. Recognizing God’s holiness (God is light)
 2. Fellowship with God
 3. Acknowledging one’s own sin and confessing them.
 4. Making it one’s goal not to “miss the mark” that God has ordained.
 5. Being:
 - a. Saved from God’s wrath (propitiation) – Romans 5:9
 - b. Cleansed of guilt (expiation)
 - c. Reconciled to God (atoned)
 6. Knowing God
 7. Walking as Jesus walked
 8. Loving one another

- III. Do you love your brothers and sisters in Christ? (Part 2)
 - A. Text#1: 1John 2:7-11 (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. (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.”*

 - B. Text#2: John 13:34 (ESV): *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”*

 - C. What “loving one another” is NOT:
 1. Love does not tolerate sinful behavior.
 - a. **Question: Why is having tolerance for sinful behavior not love?**
 - i. Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing (1Cor. 13:6)
 - ii. It calls the wayward disciple to renounce practices that God hates.
 - iii. Love encourages repentance.
 - b. **Example: 1Corinthians 5:1-2**
 - i. These disciples were not loving this wayward disciple
 - He was with his father’s wife
 - The Corinthian congregation tolerated this situation
 - Instead of loving him towards godly sorrow that leads to repentance (2Cor. 7:10), they “loved” him towards spiritual condemnation.
 - That type of “love” is not love at all!

2. Love does not treat fallen / excommunicated disciples as if they were still in fellowship.
 - a. Love encourages reconciliation with the Lord and with His Church
 - b. We are called to be ambassadors of reconciliation:
 - i. 2Cor. 5:20 (ESV): *“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”*

3. Love does not manipulate others for personal advantage.
 - a. **Question: Why is “manipulation” not love?**
 - i. Love is not selfish
 - ii. Love does not insist on its own way (1Cor. 13:5, ESV)
 - iii. Jesus came to serve, not to be served (Mark 10:45)
 - iv. To walk as Jesus walked means to walk in love.

4. Love does not enable
 - a. **Question: What is an enabler?**
 - b. **Definition: “A person who *enables* another to persist in destructive behavior”**
 - c. **Question: Why is “enabling” not love?**
 - i. An enabler unintentionally aids others in their ungodly behavior as opposed to helping them out of it.
 - ii. Love encourages obedience to the Holy Spirit.

5. Love does not coddle
 - a. **Question: What does “coddle” mean?**
 - b. **Definition: “to treat with extreme or excessive care or kindness”**
 - c. **Question: Why is “coddling” not love?**
 - i. A coddler unintentionally prevents others from maturing spiritually.
 - ii. Romans 5:3 teaches us that through our suffering, we develop endurance, which, in turn, produces character, and character produces hope
 - iii. Love encourages spiritual growth and understands that maturity comes through adversity.
 - iv. Love sees others through the trials and sufferings that comes from being a disciple of Christ!

6. Love is not feeling
 - a. 1Corinthians 13:4-8 deals with virtue, not feeling
 - b. Sometimes you may be angry at your children but that does not mean you don’t love them!

7. Note:
 - a. The 6 points mentioned above are natural tendencies.
 - b. The love John speaks of is not natural; it is a God-Love!
 - c. God-Love is a decision we make and it is challenging!