

The First Epistle of John

(Week 11 – 1John 2:7-8)

I. Do you love your brothers and sisters in Christ? (Part 3)

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.”*

II. Review:

A. What love is NOT:

1. Love does not tolerate sinful behavior
2. Love does not treat the fallen / excommunicated as if they were all right
3. Love does not manipulate others for personal gain
4. Love does not enable
5. Love does not coddle
6. Love is not a feeling (it is a decision) – it’s not natural!
 - a. Matthew 5:44 says love your enemies
 - i. That’s not speaking about emotional love (*‘phileo’* love)
 - *‘Phileo’* is Greek for brotherly affection
 - *‘Agape’* is used here – God-love (cf. 1Cor. 13:4-8).
 - b. Sometimes you may be angry at your children but that does not mean you don’t love them!
7. Hate is not necessarily a feeling, too
 - a. We may ‘hate’ someone without knowing it.
 - i. Example1:
 - Proverbs 13:24 (ESV) says, *“Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him”*
 - When a child is not disciplined, in God’s eyes, that child is not being loved
 - In the world, disciplining (spanking) your children is an unloving act, but God calls it an act of love
 - ii. Example2
 - James 4:4 (ESV) says, *“Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God”*
 - Some say they love God, yet, in selfishness, pursue the ways and pleasures of the world. Do they really love God?

III. God's love shines in its fullness when we obey Him and love each other!

- A. In 1John 2:5, we learned that obedience to God's word allows His love to be perfected in us.
- B. In the same way, our love for one another allows God's love to be perfected in us!
 1. 1John 4:12 (ESV), "*if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*"
 - a. Again, the word "perfect" there is the Greek word, "teleioo," which means, "complete; finish; fulfill; perfect"
- C. What is love?
 1. First and foremost: GOD IS LOVE! (1John 4:8)
 - a. Love became flesh: Jesus Christ!
 - b. We look to Jesus as our prototype as to what love is and how to love!
 2. 1Cor. 13:4-8a (ESV): PART 1
 - a. Love is patience (long suffering)
 - i. **Question: How does God show His patience?**
 - He shows His patience by not destroying this world long ago!
 - With all the evil going on, He hasn't destroyed the world yet!
 - a. Abortions; Terrorism; Murders; Greed; Social Injustice; Promiscuity; Dishonesty; etc.
 - b. Why is this world still here? Because...
 - i. 2 Peter 3:9 (ESV), "*The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*"
 - If God's patience was like man's 'patience,' this world would have been wiped out long ago!
 - Aren't you glad God's love is not like man's?
 - He shows His patience by giving us chance after chance when we do wrong!
 - 1John 1:9 (ESV), "*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*"
 - a. How many times have you sinned before the Lord?
 - b. How many times have you asked God to forgive you?
 - c. Isn't He incredibly patient?
 - Matthew 18:21-22, Jesus shows that we are to forgive, not seven times, but seventy times seven (ESV)
 - a. In other words, don't count! Forgive as God forgives you!

ii. **Question: How can we show patience?**

- By praying for those caught in sin, even if they slander you.
- By choosing our words carefully when addressing someone caught in wrongdoing.
- By being quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry (James 1:19).
- By choosing to do what is in the best interest of someone else, even if you suffer in the process.
- We are to love one another as He loved us (in patience)

b. In your patience, show kindness

i. Kindness has many synonyms:

- Caring
- Mercy
- Charity
- Philanthropy
- Sympathy
- Compassion
- Tenderheartedness
- Friendliness

ii. **Question: How does God show His kindness?**

- He showed His kindness by sending His Son to redeem us
 - Titus 3:4-6 (ESV), *“But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, (5) He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, (6) whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior”*
- He shows His kindness by providing sun and rain for both the just and the unjust
 - Matthew 5:45b (ESV), *“...For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust”* (cf. Luke 6:35)
 - a. Love (God) is kind, even to the unkind
 - b. We are to love one another as He loved us (in kindness)

iii. Question: How can we show kindness?

- By caring for God’s people who are going through difficult times (Matthew 25:34-40)
- By speaking in such a way as to encourage a brother/sister caught in sin to repent
 - Proverbs 16:21 (ESV), “*The wise of heart is called discerning, and sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness.*”
 - a. Harsh and angry words do not reflect kindness of speech, and it will further drive a person into deeper sin.
 - i. Proverbs 12:18 (ESV) says, “*There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing*”
 - b. If our words are spoken truthfully, in love, with kindness present, our speech may motivate the wayward to towards repentance.

iv. Kindness is goodness in action; goodness of heart expressing itself in action!

- 1John 3:18 (ESV), “*Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*”

IV. Conclusion

A. Patience and kindness come from the Spirit of God (Gal. 5:22).

1. This is why John says in 1John 4:12 (ESV), “*if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*”
2. When we love the way God loves, we are showing that God truly lives in us!