

The First Epistle of John

(Week 13 – 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. Quick Review

A. What is love?

1. GOD is love! (1John 4:8)
2. Patience (1Cor. 13:4)
3. Kindness (synonyms: caring; mercy; sympathy; compassion; friendliness)
4. Does not envy
5. Does not boast
6. It is not arrogant

III. What is love? 1Cor. 13:4-8 (continuation)

A. NIV; ESV: Love is not rude (vs. 5)

1. **Question: How would you define ‘rudeness’?**
 - a. Definition #1: *Discourteous or impolite*
 - b. Definition #2: *Without culture, learning, or refinement*
 - c. Definition #3: *Rough in manners or behavior*
 - d. Simple definition: *To behave badly*
 - i. *KJV says love “doth not behave itself unseemly”*
2. Many people think that love means to tolerate bad behavior
 - a. Ex. #1: Parents
 - i. To them, it is an act of love to tolerate their child’s misbehavior
 - ii. The child has a screaming fit and the parent stands there helpless as if they were powerless to change things
 - b. Ex. #2: Marriages
 - i. Husbands and wives think that if their spouse really loves them, they would put up with their bad behavior.
 - ii. However, Paul says love requires us not to behave badly.
3. The Corinthians were behaving badly, weren’t they?
 - a. There were divisions within the fellowship (chapter 1)
 - b. They were tolerating sexual immorality (chapter 5)
 - c. Disciples were taking each other to court (chapter 6)

4. **Question: How can ‘rudeness’ show itself within the church today?**
- a. **By way of evangelism:**
 - i. Using the gospel to be pushy or overly aggressive with others
 - ii. Jesus never forced Himself upon an unwilling, disinterested soul
 - iii. How should our speech be?
 - *“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”* (Colossians 4:6 ESV)
 - b. **By way of correction:**
 - i. How we say things, especially when correcting someone else, can help a person see their error
 - *“The heart of the wise makes his speech judicious and adds persuasiveness to his lips.”* (Proverbs 16:23 ESV)
 - Judicious means using or showing discernment or good judgment.
 - **Example: Naaman’s servants (2Kings 5:13)**
 - They were courteous and humble
 - a. They called Naaman, *“father”* and they chose their words carefully so that they may persuade Naaman and help him.
 - They spoke from what they knew of Naaman – they knew that he was courageous and willing to do a great deed.
 - a. They used Naaman’s character to convince him surrender to God’s way.
 - This example of Naaman’s servants can be used when encouraging the lost to make Jesus Lord!
 - ii. We must be careful not to become rude when we are being corrected.
 - When a fellow servant of the Lord corrects us of a sin, it is an act of love.
 - c. **By way of self-righteousness**
 - i. The “holier-than-thou” attitude is incompatible to love!
 - ii. This type of attitude breeds rudeness and it is an annoying smoke in the nose of God:
 - Isaiah 65:5, *“Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am too holy for you.’ These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all the day.”*
 - Ever smelled heavy smoke from a burning house?
 - A true disciple has the aroma of Christ, a sweet smell to God’s nostrils (2Cor. 2:15)
 - Those who look down on others (Luke 18:9) and seek not to impact others with the love of God (Matthew 9:11-13) are a stench to God.
 - iii. Love, which includes good behavior, has the potential to draw the lost towards His disciples, prompting them to inquire about faith in Christ.
 - iv. Love also has the potential to draw the erring brother towards restoration, for 1Peter 4:8 says love covers a multitude of sins.