

The First Epistle of John

(Week 14 – 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
7. It is not rude

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

A. Love does not insist in its own way (vs. 5) – NIV says *“not self-seeking”*

1. Love is not self-centered
2. Love is concerned with the well being of others!
 - a. Jesus expressed His love for us by dying for our sins
 - b. To love God means to place Him above all others (He is our First Love)
 - c. To love my neighbor (friend or enemy) means to place his/her interests above yours. (Phil. 2:3-4).
 - d. In Matthew 22:39, Jesus quoted Leviticus 19:18 which says, *“love your neighbor as yourselves.”*
 - i. **Question: From what we have covered, how does one love their neighbor as themselves?**
 - Treat others as if they were you..
 - Naturally, we tend to love ourselves; we seek our own interests above others.
 - God teaches us to love others they way we would naturally love ourselves, by putting their interests above ours.

B. Love is not irritable – NIV says “*not easily angered*”

1. A person who is irritable is one who is short-fused or easily angered (impatient)
 - a. Such persons are quickly provoked to take actions (or say words) that are not edifying to either persons.
2. Love does not have a chip on its shoulder, looking for some tiny straw of offense so it can ventilate all its anger and hostility.

C. Love is not resentful –

1. NIV says “*it keeps no record of wrongs*”
2. KJV says “*thinketh no evil*”
3. Greek:
 - a. “*logizomai*” – to take an inventory; to think on
 - b. “*kakos*” – bad; harm; evil
4. Love does not take an inventory, producing resentful thoughts towards others.
5. **Question: What does the word ‘resent’ mean?**
 - a. To feel or express annoyance or ill will at someone or something.
6. Keeping a mental record of wrongs breed resentment.
7. Resentment obstructs reconciliation.
8. Love one another as I have loved you: As a disciple of Christ, does God keep a record of my past sins?
 - a. Micah 7:19 (ESV) says, “*He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.*”
 - i. Our past sins, through the blood of Christ, have been cast into the sea, never to rise again!
 - ii. If God were to keep a record of wrongs, without ever tossing them into the sea, nor trampling them underfoot, we would all face certain damnation!

D. Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth (vs. 6)

1. Love does not enjoy that which God hates
 - a. **Question: Give an example of “rejoicing at wrongdoing?”**
 - i. Movies: Where a villain is so hated by the audience, that there is extreme joy when he dies a horrifying death
 - ii. Movies: Where a woman is unhappy in her marriage, she is portrayed as loving and caring; she meets a nice guy who makes her happy, then, without any biblical grounds for divorce, she sends her husband away packing and marries the guy. And she is now happy! The movie ends with a so-called “happy ending.” Then we are trapped into feeling happy for this woman, even though Christ calls that adultery.
 - iii. Behavior: Inappropriate behavior (flirting, etc.)
 - iv. Speech: Inappropriate jokes, comments that are off-color, even gossip:
 - Love does not rejoice when someone gossips to them
 - Love will correct the gossiper because it doesn’t take pleasure at wrongdoing, but rather, it rejoices with what is right, that is, with the truth.
2. Love always delights in what is right and true!
 - a. Especially when things are done the way God says things ought to be done.
 - b. Love always rejoices when God’s word is obeyed.