

The First Epistle of John

(Week 15 – 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
8. Does not insist it its own way
9. It is not irritable
10. It is not resentful
11. It does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth

III. The consistency/constancy of love (1Cor. 13:7-8)

A. Throughout history, man has sought to excuse disobedience or sin by convincing himself that his situation is an exception

1. The Pharisees asked Jesus if a man could divorce his wife for any reason at all (Matthew 19:3)
 - a. Jesus’ response was a refusal to dwell on the exceptions and to focus on the rule.
 - b. He knew that for the Pharisees, the exception had become the rule.
2. In 1Corinthians 10:13, a verse that deals with temptation, Paul excludes any “loopholes” by informing his readers that, when facing temptations, God provides a way out, so that we may not succumb to it.
 - a. Giving into temptation is a failure to act upon God’s divine “way of escape.”
3. Yet, man gives excuses to his disobedience by saying: *“I couldn’t help it, after all, I’m only human”*
4. In 1Corinthians 13:7-8, Paul informs his readers five things that love never ceases to possess...

B. Love bears all things (vs. 7) – NIV says “*it always protects*”

1. Greek word “*stego*” means “*to roof over; to cover with silence: to forbear; to suffer*”

a. This two-dimensional meaning describes love in this manner:

i. Love always protects

- Proverbs 17:9 (ESV), “*Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.*” (cf. 1Peter 4:8)

- Sin is shameful and love does not wish the wayward brother to be shamed more than necessary.
- Therefore, love does not seek to further a brother’s shame by broadcasting his sins of others, but rather, it seeks to help to restore that brother in a private manner.

a. Matthew 18:15-20 shows how a wayward brother should be treated.

b. Keep the matter as private as possible before going public.

ii. Love bears all things

- No matter how great the persecution, suffering or adversity, love never caves in!
- Love always holds up; it never folds up!
- Job’s wife tempted him by telling him to curse God and die (Job 2:9ff).
- He didn’t succumb to the temptation!

C. [Love] believes all things -- NIV says “*always trusts*”

1. Love always has faith

2. Love never stops believing, when life seems to crumble around us

3. In Philippians 1, Paul, during his imprisonment, was filled with faith

- a. He trusted that his death would bring him into the presence of God OR
- b. That his life would draw others nearer to God

4. Suffering is not an excuse for the failure of faith; rather, it is an occasion where love and faith may be shown.

5. Our love for God and our trust in His Word should give us unlimited faith in Him.

- a. We should have faith in His promises to sustain us
- b. Faith that He will keep us from falling
- c. Faith that He will perfect His work in us.
- d. Faith that God is using our trials and tribulations to strengthen our faith (Rom. 5:1-11; James 1:1-18) and to bring about our good and His glory (Rom. 8:28).
- e. Love is optimistic!

D. [Love] hopes all things

1. Love looks forward to what is coming in the future!

E. [Love] endures all things – NIV says “*always perseveres*”

1. “Bearing up” has to do with intensity of the suffering, while “endurance” as to do with the length of the suffering.

F. Paul concludes by saying love never fails (vs. 8)

1. Love always bears up; it will never doubt God; it will always hope and endures!

2. It will never die; Love is eternal!

3. 1John 4:7b (ESV), “*...and whoever loves is born of God and knows God*”