

# The First Epistle of John

## (Week 16 – 1John 2:7-11)

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

A. 1John 2:7-8 (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.”*

1. **Question: “What is the new commandment?”**
  - a. Most likely, it is the commandment that Jesus taught in John 13:34: To love one another as He loved us!
2. **Question: “Why do we conclude this ‘new commandment’ is the commandment to love as He loved us?”**
  - a. Because in verses 9-11, John deals with the topic of love.
3. *“...because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining”*
  - a. **Question: “From verse 8: What darkness is passing away?”**
    - i. The darkness of hate that is present within those who do not know God.
    - b. **Question: “Who is the true light?”**
      - i. Jesus is the light of the world (John 9:5).
4. **Question: “In what way is the true light already shining?”**
  - a. He shines in those who walk in the light.
  - b. The context seems to say that the true light is the love of Christ manifested in those who walk in the light:
    - i. Those who walk in the light have the light of Christ’s love shining through them, putting out the darkness of hate all around them!
    - ii. When we choose to walk obediently and deal with sin, which we have already seen in 1John, then something happens to us. It is like Jesus turns on His light in us and the evidence of that light being in us is not some glow that we have. It is the love for people that flows out of us!
5. **Question: “In what way is the darkness passing away?”**
  - a. While we are in this world, there will be darkness.
  - b. However, as we walk in the light, little by little, the darkness passes away as people see the light of Christ in us.
  - c. Then, one day, all the saved will live in a world covered in the light of Christ’s love; and the darkness of hate will be completely gone forever!
    - i. Revelation 21:27 (ESV), *“But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”*

## B. Transition:

1. Evidence of being in the light is shown by our lifestyle and our relationships.
2. 1John 2:9 (ESV): *“Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness.”*
  - a. Here, John equates hatred to darkness
  - b. **Question: From what we learned in the past weeks, how is hatred expressed?**
    - i. Coddling; Enabling; Tolerating sin; Impatience; etc.
  - c. **Question: What are other ways hatred is expressed?**
    - i. Ostracization
      - To Ostracize: *“to exclude, by general consent, from society, friendship, conversation, privileges, etc”*
      - When we set a boundary, saying, *“I will never cross this line to associate with you.”*
      - Hate ostracizes people, while love draws them in.
      - The Jews of ancient Palestine “ostracized” the Samaritans. Jesus, in John 4, in love, drew a Samaritan towards faith.
      - Those in the kingdom are called to be drawn to each other in love, not ostracized.
      - Side Note: The only time the Bible calls us to separate ourselves from a brother/sister is when they are undergoing Church discipline (1Cor. 5:11; 2Thess. 3:14-15).
        - This is to be done with grief, and with the hope that they would repent.
    - ii. Racial hate
      - Those who claim to be in the light, yet are racists, are expressing hatred.
    - iii. Bitter/Unforgiving spirit
      - Those who harbor bitterness towards another disciple, without obeying what Christ says in Matthew 18:15, is expressing hatred towards their brother/sister.

## C. 1John 2:10-11 (ESV): *“Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.”*

1. **Question: What is meant by the term “in him there is no cause for stumbling?”**
  - a. When a disciple loves his brothers and sisters, he/she will not find himself/herself being envious of them, maligning them, etc.
  - b. His actions will not cause others to stumble.

## D. 1John 2:11 (ESV): *“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.”*

1. Hatred is a manifestation of “walking in darkness”
2. Hatred misguides a person, even though they think they are heading in the right direction!
3. In context, the Gnostics, although they considered themselves to be an “enlightened people,” were actually wandering in the dark.