

The First Epistle of John

(Week 9 – 1John 2:7-8)

I. Week-8 Quiz

- A. Have the disciples do the quiz before class starts
- B. Go over the answers by way of asking.

II. Quick Review:

A. Walking in the light involves:

1. Recognizing God's holiness (God is light)
2. Fellowshiping with God (sharing His holiness, will, hatred for sin, etc.)
3. Acknowledging one's own sin and confessing them.
4. Making it one's goal not to "miss the mark" that God has ordained.
5. Being:
 - a. Saved from God's wrath (propitiation) – Romans 5:9
 - b. Cleansed of guilt (expiation)
 - c. Reconciled to God (atoned)
6. Knowing God
7. Walking as Jesus walked

B. Last Class:

1. The Test Patterns for True Believers
 - a. Do you *KNOW* God? (vv. 3-4)
 - b. Do you *WALK* as Jesus walked? (vv. 5-6)

C. Tonight: Do you love your brothers and sisters in Christ (vv. 9-11)?

1. *Note: This class will only cover verses 7-8 and John 13:34.*
2. **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.”*
 - a. **1John 2:7 (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.”*
 - i. **Question: What “old commandment” is John talking about?**
 - Some possible answers are:
 - *“The old commandment is the word that you have heard”* meaning, what he just mentioned in verses 3-6, that is, the call to walk as Christ walked.

- *“The old commandment is the word that you have heard”* meaning, the gospel
 - a. The gospel is the first thing we are to hear and believe (Mark 16:15; 1Cor. 15:1-4)
- *“The old commandment is the word that you have heard”* meaning, *“that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all”* (1John 1:5)
 - a. In other words, when you were taught about Jesus, you were instructed to put away sinful practices and live godly lives (Eph. 4:21-22).
 - b. Since God is light, we must live as children of the light (Eph. 5:8).
- *“The old commandment is the word that you have heard”* that *“at the same time, is a new commandment,”* that is, to love one another
 - a. Perhaps John is referring to the topic of love, since vv. 9-11 deals with love.
 - b. Also, in the Gospel of John, Jesus referred to love as a “new commandment” (John 13:34).
- All these points are plausible, because, the word that we have heard involves:
 - Hearing the gospel, which involves...
 - Learning of God’s holiness, which calls us to...
 - Walk as Christ walked and to...
 - Love one another
- b. 1John 2:8 (ESV): *“(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.”*
 - i. This *“new commandment”* seems to be pointing to what Jesus referred to as “loving one another” (John 13:34)
 - This new commandment *“is true in Him,”* that is, His most prominent attribute was and is LOVE!
 - John goes on to say that which was in Christ is also within His true followers – like Teacher; like disciple! (Matthew 10:25)
 - Jesus said in John 13:35 that all men will know that we are His disciples if we love each other.

ii. A closer look:

- **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.”**
 - **God, in the Old Testament, taught that we are to love our neighbor (Lev. 19:18). The command to love is not a new commandment!**
 - **However...**
 - a. **Question: What makes Jesus’ commandment to “love one another” new?**
 - b. **What makes it new is the qualifier: “...As I have loved you!”**

iii. **Question: How did Jesus love us?**

- **HE DIED FOR US**
 - **Do you love your brothers and sisters, even if it costs you your life?**
- **HE LOVED THE UNLOVEABLE**
 - **He prayed for the harsh, the unruly, the arrogant, saying, “*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!*” – Luke 23:34 (ESV)**
 - a. **Do you love those who are difficult to love?**

Lord willing, in our next class, we will go deeper into this topic of “loving one another”