

Sermon Discussion - 29 January 2023

Read 1 John 2:7-11 together.

Getting Started *Sharing from personal experience*

- Think about a team that you've worked, served, or played with. How is a team impacted by a member who has different goals or lives under a different moral standard than everyone else?
- John teaches that love, not hatred, is the distinguishing characteristic of those who abide in Jesus. Does love mark your relationship to others within the church? If so, how does your love show itself?

Observation *Discovering the context*

The previous passage taught that the depth of our relationship with Jesus is revealed by our obedience to his commands. This passage presents a second "marker" of our relationship with Jesus...love. How does obedience relate to love?

Interpretation *Discovering the meaning*

1. John claims that the commandment he is sharing is "an old commandment." If it is familiar, where in Scripture can you find it? Start your search in Mark 12 and then examine Ephesians 5, James 2, and 1 Peter 2. Can you find it elsewhere?
2. In verse 8, John says that it is also a new commandment. In what ways does Jesus make this old commandment new?
3. What is the fundamental test of love that John offers to us in verses 9-10? What are the benefits of walking in the light of love?
4. We may be familiar with walking around a dark home at night and stubbing our toe on a toy or a piece of furniture. Imagine the spiritual equivalent of walking in hatred-fueled darkness. What consequences might you see in your life and relationships if you are blinded by such darkness?
5. If you have ever lost your way due to harboring hatred or bitterness in your heart, what is the pathway back to living in the light and life of Jesus Christ?

Application *Putting knowledge into practice*

- What action is the Lord prompting you to take this week as a result of being in His Word?
- Try memorising 1 John 2:9-10.
“Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.”
- How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?