

## **The Essentials of Our Faith – Studies In I John #6**

A New (Old) Commandment

I John 2:7-11

### **I. Walking Like Jesus VS 7-8**

- A.** VS 6
- B.** Beloved – agape – whole letter
- C.** Not a new commandment
  - John 15:12
  - John 15:13
  - John 13:1
- D.** From the beginning of their faith
- E.** Part of John’s message
- F.** Old Testament – the same love of God
- G.** What makes it new
  - A new model of love – as I have loved you
    - 1.** The cross
  - A new fellowship
    - 1.** Gathered around Jesus
    - 2.** What Jesus showed us, put into practice with each other
- H.** This is the true light
- I.** Is shining
  - We practice the light with each other
  - So we can shine in the world
  - And draw all people to Jesus

### **II. The Incompatibility of Love and Hate, Light and Darkness VS 9-11**

- A.** You can’t live in two spheres – light and darkness
- B.** In the community and hate your brother or sister
  - Oil and water
- C.** Hatred
  - Not just strong emotion
  - Actions of those who have left

- Disobedience to this command
- Disunity = hatred
- Luke 14:26
- To leave is to dwell in darkness

- D.** Walking blind because we are in darkness
- E.** It is not our feelings but our actions and words that concern John
  - Love → actions
  - Hate → actions
- F.** VS 10 Within the body vis a vis those who have left
  - Who really shows love?
  - Those who stay or those who leave
  - Issues can never trump love
- G.** How can you love those outside the fellowship if you can’t love those inside - blindness

### **III. Thoughts**

- A.** The power to love like Jesus
  - John 13:34
  - “True in Him and in you” VS 8
  - Romans 5:5
  - A shared life with Jesus
  - The darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining
  - The test or evidence: your attitude towards your brothers and sisters in Christ
- B.** We struggle with absolute commands because we celebrate free choice, not obedience. We love when we want to and don’t when we change our mind. John connects love and obedience. In reality it is rules that makes life possible!
- C.** In the Church it is obedience (action) to God’s will as seen in scripture. Our authority – not some other authority