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1 John 2:7-11 *Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you [I'm not writing a new commandment to you], but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.* ⁸*Again, a new commandment I write unto you¹, which thing [and this new commandment] is true [will always exist] in him [Jesus] and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.* ⁹*He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.* ¹⁰*He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him [and he won't stumble no matter what happens].* ¹¹*But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth [and doesn't know where he is going], because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.*

- I. Introduction: The reason John wrote the letter we call 1 John (to Christian in general but no one in particular) was to:
 - A. Explain why Christians are joyful in their lives, 1 John 1:4
 - B. Assure Christians that their sins are forgiven, 1 John 2:12
 - C. Warn Christians that there are evil men who want to draw them away from the simple faith in Christ, 1 John 2:26
 - D. Assure Christians that their eternal life is secure because of Jesus alone, 1 John 5:13

In contrast to everything the world sees as security for the future, God's Word offers the assurance of eternal life. One of the evidences in this life that we are God's children is that we have a love for each other and for those who don't know Christ.

- II. An Old Commandment: "...which ye had from the beginning..." and, "...which ye have heard from the beginning. verse 7" What is John referring to with these statements? That you love one another

1 John 3:11 *For **this is the message** [the old commandment] **that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.***

1. They had received and respected this commandment from the Apostles as if it came to them personally from God Himself
1 Thessalonians 2:13 *For this cause also [because you live your lives in a manner worthy of God] **thank we** [Paul, Silas, and Timothy, see 1 Thessalonians 1:1] **God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.***

¹ It is confusing to see in verse 7 that John writes, "...I write no new commandment unto you...", then in verse 8 he writes the opposite: "...a new commandment I write unto you...". This sort of writing is called a paradox, a seeming contradiction that is actually consistent. The commandment is old in that it has been implied "...from the beginning...", but it is explicitly given anew by Jesus and His Apostles.

2. Christian relationships should be distinct from the world. People should see that Christians treat each other with the love that God shows them.
1 John 4:16, 19 *And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and **he that dwelleth in love dwelleth** [and whoever lives in love lives] **in God, and God in him...** We love him, because he first loved us.*
3. One evidence of our love for God is that we do what He wants us to do.
Ephesians 2:10 *For we are his workmanship [God's handiwork, something God made with His own hands], **created in Christ Jesus unto good works** [to do good works], **which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them** [which God prepared for us to do before we were saved].*

A New Commandment: That you love one another

- A. This commandment was given by Jesus on the night before His death.
John 13:34-35 *A new commandment I [Jesus] give unto you [the Disciples], **That ye love one another**; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, **if ye have love one to another.***
 1. Jesus says the same thing again:
John 15:12, 17 *This is my commandment, **That ye love one another, as I have loved you...** These things I command you, **that ye love one another.***
 2. The Apostle Peter also repeats the importance of love for one another:
1 Peter 1:22 *Seeing ye [Christians] have purified your souls [have been saved] in obeying the truth through the [Holy] Spirit unto unfeigned [sincere] love of the brethren, **see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:***
- B. This commandment was demonstrated by the Lord Jesus in His dying on the cross to pay the price for our redemption
John 15:13 *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*
 1. This was a new display of love from God for the world.
 2. This is now called the New Testament (or, alternatively, the New Covenant) of God with all men see Acts 17:30.

- C. This new commandment is seen both in the Lord Jesus Christ and in each believer, verse 8 "...which thing [the new commandment] **is true** [is seen] **in him** [Jesus] **and in you**: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth..."
1. In the Lord Jesus, because His love for us was demonstrated without any sort of love from us toward Him.
Romans 5:8 But God commendeth [shows] his love toward [for] us, in that, while we were yet [still] sinners, Christ died for us.
 2. In us, because He empowers us to love others with the same love that He shows towards us, see John 13:34 above. This can be seen in many ways, such as the restoration-of-fellowship process explained by the Lord Jesus in Matthew 18:15-18.
 3. In us, in that we can control our response to other people's actions. While there are a countless number of ways for someone to offend us, we can choose not to be offended. God's Holy Spirit will give us this strength, see John 15:13, above.

III. A New Light: "...because the darkness is past, and **the true light now shineth**..."
verse 8

A. Our past walk was in darkness

1. Before we were saved, we were in darkness, not knowing the love of God or His Son, see 2 Corinthians 5:17.
 - a. Every believer was saved from the kingdom of darkness, see Ephesians 5:8 and Romans 3:10-18
 - b. Each of us can testify that, even after salvation, we have trouble controlling our sinful nature. See 1 John 1:9 and Romans 7:7-23
2. Light always eliminates darkness. The Light of the Gospel drives out the confusing darkness of religion by works. See Galatians 2:16.
 - a. Darkness passes from our lives the moment we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior, when we stop trying to earn God's favor and simply accept it as a gift paid for by the precious blood of Christ.
 - b. Spiritual darkness is the life of every unbeliever, and is in the past for every Christian.
Ephesians 2:1-3 *And you hath he quickened [made alive], who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein [because you know that] **in time past** ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air [Satan], the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also **we all had our conversation** [our lifestyle] **in times past** in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

- B. Our present walk is in the light of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus brings:
 - 1. Light: John 1:9.
 - a. Light does not have fellowship with darkness,
 - 2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and **what communion hath light with darkness?**
 - b. The light of Christ immediately dispels darkness
 - 2 Corinthians 4:6 *For **God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness**, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*
 - 2. Life: Colossians 3:4
 - 3. Love: 1 John 4:16

IV. A Self-Deception: Note the contrast in verses 9-11

⁹**He that** saith he is in the light, and **hateth his brother**, is in darkness even until now.

¹⁰**He that loveth his brother** abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

¹¹But **he that hateth his brother** is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

- 1. What Deception Exposes, verse 9: Failing to love your brother/sister in Christ. Compare verse 9 "...*he that saith...*" with 1 John 1:6, 8, & 10, where we see the phrase "*If we say that...*" three times. These are all self-deceptions.
- 2. When a Believer Refuses to be Deceived, verse 10:
 - A. When you truly love your brother/sister in Christ, you will not stumble, and you will live in Light.
 - B. This love is displayed by abiding (a constant fellowship with) the Lord.
 - C. This love results in safety for the believer: "...there is none occasion of stumbling (scandals, traps, snares)..."
Psalm 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
- 3. What Deception Hinders, verse 11: "...that darkness hath blinded his eyes..."
The results of this self-deception are:
 - A. Hatred: Hatred always blinds people.
 - B. Darkness: Darkness brings wrong direction.

V. Conclusion

- A. Assurance is only found when walking in the right direction
- B. Walking in the Light assures us we are following God's path for us