

THE COMMANDMENT TO LOVE

I John 2:7-11

Introduction:

- A. I am amazed at times how cruel people can be to each other.
 - 1. Persecutions of early Christians.
 - 2. Killing of Jews in World War II.
 - 3. The cruel things families can say to each other
 - 4. The animosity among Christians - Church splits.

- B. The Apostle John says these things should not be found in the Christian's life.
 - 1. I John 2:4-5

"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected; hereby know we that we are in him."

I . THE COMMANDMENT BOTH NEW AND OLD

I John 2:7-8

"Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.

Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you; because the darkness is past and the true light now shineth."

- A. Old in that love is seen in the Ten Commandments.
 - 1. Love of God.
 - 2. Love of fellow man.

- B. Old in that Christ the very personification of love had lived and died and rose again.
 - 1. God so loved he gave.
 - 2. Christ so loved he died.

a. Romans 5:8

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

b. Christ had even spoken of a new commandment

(1) John 13:34

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."

(2) Mark 12:29-31

"And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord; And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength; this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."

C. Old in that they had read, no doubt, Paul's writing concerning love. "Yet show I unto you a more excellent way."

1. Isn't it strange that we know better than we do

D. New Commandment in that they had experienced the love of God shed abroad in their hearts.

1. Try to describe something that you have not experienced.

2. They had experienced the forgiveness of sin - this was new to them.

3. The darkness was passing and a new light was shining.

4. We experience greater love for our fellow man right after our conversion than perhaps at any other time.

a. Should not this love deepen and grow?

5. Yes, a commandment both new and old.

I I . THE COMMANDMENT PUT TO THE TEST

I John 2:9-11 (read)

1. Occasion = that from which anything proceeds, a starting place, base of operations, an apparatus for beginning or accomplishing anything.

A. Things may look good on the surface but will they stand the test.

1. Will a red apple stand the test of eating?

2. Will the shining new car stand the test of driving?

3. He that says he is a Christian, can he withstand the test?

a. I John 2:9

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

b. Do you hate?

B. Solid Gold.

1. I John 2:10.

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

2. Ring that tarnishes only surface gold or imitation.

3. The real Christian loves.

a. The real test comes when we can love people at their worst.

b. There is a difference in hating peoples' sin and the sinner.

c. He that loves is no occasion of stumbling in him.

(1) Too many times non-Christians are stumbling over the inconsistencies of our lives.

- C. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness.
 - 1. There is the darkness of sin in his life.
 - 2. Sin has blinded his eyes.
 - 3. Too many times our dislike of a person has blinded us to their good qualities.

- D. Can your life stand the test?
 - 1. I John 3:11-15 (read)

- E. Commandment of love - Jesus said none is greater.
 - 1. Love God.
 - 2. Love fellow man.
 - 3. Have you experienced the love of God in your heart? Why not now?

