

# *That You May Know*

Old and New — 1 John 2:7-11  
February 10, 2019

...the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. - **1 John 2:8**

## I. A VERY OLD NEW COMMANDMENT

- John continues to address the church directly. They are his “little children” and they are “beloved” (vs. 7; Gal. 4:19).
- John now turns to the relational test that determines the connection between our lives as Christians and God’s truth—the test of love (vs. 7, 9, 3:1; 3:11-24; 4:7).
- The command to love was old—“from the beginning” of Jesus’ gospel ministry, and rooted in the law of Moses (Deut. 6:5; Lev. 19:17-18; Mark 12:28-31; Rom. 13:8-10; Gal. 5:14).
- The command to love was new—part of the New Covenant inaugurated by Jesus and thus a pillar of the new age (John 13:34-35; 15:12, 17).

## II. THE TRUE LIGHT OF A NEW AGE

- Christ, the Light of the world, came to dispel the darkness of sin and ignorance and to inaugurate the age of light and love (John 1:6-10; 9:4-5; Eph. 5:8).
- Christians live spiritually in “the new age” but live temporally in “this age” (1 Cor. 2:6-8; Eph. 1:21; 1 Thess. 5:5-8; Heb. 6:4-6).
- Since love is the distinctive command of the new age, the test of obedience to that command is loving others, particularly our “brothers” (vs. 9; Rom. 14:13-19; 1 Cor. 8:1-13).
- To love brings light, to hate leaves one in utter darkness (John 8:12; 11:9-10; 12:35-36).

**KNOW:** As Christ-followers we are called to love others, this is both an old and new commandment. Hating people, particularly brothers and sisters in Christ, is a sure sign that darkness still reigns in your life.

**DO:** Live and love as one who abides in the light.

### Suggested Reading:

*The Mark of the Christian* by Francis Schaeffer (LifePoint Library #284.4)

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

#### Please Read 1 John 2:7-11

1. John talks a bit about new and old commandments, but what is the main point? What is *the* commandment that we should obey? (hint: see verse 10)
2. Talk about John’s usage of the terms “day” and “night” and “light” and “dark.” What is he talking about?
3. Why is it a sure sign of spiritual “darkness” to hate a brother or sister in Christ?
4. What do we do if a brother or sister in Christ wrongs us in such a way that it makes it difficult for us to love them?
5. How might you apply this word in your life—to love others and to walk in the light of Christ?