



Community of Hope Church
Community Group Bible Study

1 John

Sept. 2020-Jan. 2021

Lesson #4: Week of Oct. 11

1 JOHN 2:7-11: The Old/New Commandment

Read 1 John 2:7-11 aloud. What are you hearing in these verses? What words are repeated?

Examine

- Which “old commandment” might John be referring to in verse 7? (See Deut. 6:5; Lev. 19:18)
- What is the “new commandment” in verse 8? (See Matt. 22:37–40; John 13:34–35.) Why do you think it is called “new” here?
- What is the evidence in a believer’s life that demonstrates knowledge of God?

Chat

- Why do you think John emphasizes our love for other Christians as much as he does? (See John 17:20–23.)
- How do you think it can be said the commandment is true “in us” (v. 8)?
- How much has your love for other Christians changed since you first trusted in Jesus?
- Discuss how does participating in community (or not) affects your love for God and others

Apply

- What does it really mean to love one another?
- According to verse 10, how can we demonstrate love for our brothers and sisters?
- Is there anything in your behavior that might cause temptation or make it easier for a fellow Christian to continue in their sin?
- Is there someone in your life toward whom it is difficult for you to demonstrate the love of God? How could you best love that person?

Pray

- Pray that God would gracefully develop deep and meaningful relationships in the group throughout this study. Pray also that each member of the group would demonstrate love towards all people, especially those who are 'hard to love'.

Action

- This week try to spend time with your group to connect outside of the weekly meeting—at someone's home, a restaurant, or outdoors. Encourage your group to use these hangout times to share their personal stories of their relationship with God.

Just a note from Koko Reyes:

At the beginning of this chapter and again in verse 7, Paul uses terms of endearment, i.e., "dear children and "dear friends". I am struck by the gentle loving nature of the way Paul opens this letter. It is brilliant, the way he endorses and solidifies the relationship he has with the Corinthians before he begins to "speak the truth in love", Eph4:15. When I have correction on my mind I do not always remember this better way.

Both Paul and John make multiple references to the newness of the command to love one another that Jesus gave, see John 13:34 where Jesus says, "A new commandment that I give to you, that you love one another." This was not the philosophies espoused by the other religions, Greek or Roman, of the day nor from governmental leadership.

Matt. 5:38-42, "You have heard that it was said, and eye for an eye... "If you lived in Jesus' day, a Roman soldier could come to you at any time and tap you on the shoulder with his spear. You then would be required by law to carry his armor or baggage for up to one mile. Here, Jesus says, "Blow his mind. Go with him two miles. And if someone wants your coat, give him your undercoat as well. If they hit you on the cheek, offer them the other cheek."

There have been those throughout history who have found that what Jesus was saying was potent and dynamic-that "turning the other cheek", actually, puts one in control. The entire subcontinent of India was freed from the powerful British rule because of Ghandi read this verse, and although he was not a believer, he believed in what Jesus said. He inspired an entire nation to turn the other cheek, and it blew the Brits away. After all, what can you do if someone will not fight back? You can beat them with clubs, you can fire guns on them, but the morale of your own army is destroyed in the process. So eventually, the British got on their ships and sailed home.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. found the same thing to be true when he mobilized the Blacks in Alabama. If the protesters had fought back, the U.S. Marshals would have felt justified in firing their guns indiscriminately, and the Civil Rights movement could have died. But peaceful resistance won out, and an entire people experienced success.

In your family, at work, in your neighborhood—wherever you might be—take the words of Jesus literally. Don't fight back, for he who doesn't fight back controls the situation." Jon Courson, Bible commentator

"Relationships are tricky, and family relationships are trickiest of all. We don't get to pick our spiritual family any more than we do our earthly family. God brings in people with all different backgrounds, propensities, and baggage into His/our family.

The big question of 1 John is whether or not, we'll live in healthy fellowship with our spiritual family as well as our spiritual Father. God walks in eternal light—and if we are going to walk with Him, that means confessing our sin and loving those whom He loves.

It is not easy. Each of us faces the temptation to downplay our faults and our failures. We struggle to love our Christian brothers and sisters who rub us the wrong way, or they like Coke when we prefer Pepsi. But regardless, we can only find true fellowship with God—and with each other—when we're willing to step into the light." Tony Evans

The "new" word, used in verse 8, is not new, like something that hasn't been seen before, but it is new like something that is freshened, renewed or reinstated. That God is love is not a new reality, see Deut.6:5, Lev. 19:18 and Mk 12:30. To read the Old Testament is to comprehend that God is consistently forgiving and persistently calling us into a relationship that has a balance to it, that we do well to maintain.

In His Hands

Koko