

## Questions

1. Read 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:13. What did John give as his purpose in writing First John? How is that important to you?
2. Read 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:7. What does it mean that John refers to his readers as beloved? What are some ways in which you experience love from God and from brothers and sisters in Christ?
3. From the background to this letter, what helps us understand John's use of both old and new to describe the command to love our brethren?
4. In 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:7, what is meant by "...an old commandment that you had from the beginning"? When did your obligation to love your brethren begin? Has that command ever changed for you?
5. In 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:8, what does it mean that this new commandment is "true in Him and in you"? How is it being realized through your life?
6. Read 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:5. What does this verse say about God and about what it means to have fellowship with Him?
7. How does the contrast between light and darkness help us think about the contrast between love and hate? Do you ever minimize your sin by acting as if it's a gray area and not darkness?
8. Read John 13:34-35. Why is this command to love brethren so important for believers? In what way does doing so act as a means of assurance? In what ways do you need to grow in loving your brethren? Are there brethren that you are having a difficult time loving? Are you asking God, and maybe other believers, to help you in this area?

*After each service, if you need prayer,  
someone will be available up front to pray with or for you.*

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*A Sermon Series on 1 John*

# ASSURANCE

## The Old & New Command

**1 John 2:7-11**

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First John 2:7-11 helps us see consistency as a means of assurance for believers; first, the consistency of a command from God that is both old and new, and second, the consistency of our conduct matching that command.

A reminder of John's purpose (1 John 5:13)

1. A consistent command that is both old and new (2:7-8)

A. Two senses in which the command is OLD:

- It was found in God's Law (Lev 19:18)



- It has been a command for believers from the start of their salvation ("...that you had from the beginning.").

A caution about downplaying "hate."

How are you loving your brothers/sisters?

B. Two senses in which the command is NEW:

- How it was perfectly fulfilled in Jesus (John 13:34).
- How it is now being fulfilled in believers (cf. Matt 5:14).

Christ is our example (John 13:34)

Before exhorting believers to consistent conduct in 2:9-11, John gave instruction about the consistency of the command in 2:7-8: God's law declared it. Jesus affirmed and fulfilled it. The apostles continued to teach it. And the grace of God empowers Christ's disciples to obey it.

There is assurance for the believer in obeying this command (John 13:35)

2. Consistent conduct that gives the believer assurance of his/her faith in Christ means obeying the command to love brethren (2:9-11)

A reminder of how 1 John 1:5 set the tone for this section: God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we claim to walk in that light and have fellowship with God, then we must obey the command to love our brethren.