

WINTER SERMON SERIES

# 1 JOHN

LIGHT & LOVE

**LIFE**  
**GROUPS**  
WEEK 2 • JAN 14

THE DARKENSS

IS PASSING

AWAY

**NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT:** Hope changes everything.

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**ICE BREAKER:** When was a time when someone showed you deep compassion or love like Jesus?

## **BACKGROUND**

The Israelites were directed *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might* (Deuteronomy 6:5). They knew that to love God was to keep His commandments. John explained in his letter that this was not a new command but the one they knew, only redefined by life in Christ. Love in Christ is not just following the law, but living it out and living in the light. The proof of their love would be the fruit of their actions. If they are in Christ there is no darkness in them and no hate toward their neighbors. This applies to everyone in all generations no matter the level of spiritual maturity they have. This principle continues to guide us today. By this all people will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another (John 13:35).

## **REVIEW**

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?



**KEY VERSE:** 1 John 2:7

*Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard from the beginning.*

**READ:** 1 John 2:7-14



**HEAD LEVEL:** These questions help us to examine what the Word tells us.

1. In verses 7-11, John focuses on one of the commands. How can this command be both old and new?
2. Who is represented by the three groups being addressed (vs. 12-14)?
3. What is the level of contrast that John is making in these three groups and what encouragement do you find in his words?

**DEEPER DISCOVERY**

Compare John's statements about love and hate (vv. 9-11) with similar ones made later in the epistle (3:10; 14-15). How do these verses clarify the two types of people John is contrasting?



**HEART LEVEL:** These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

1. In view of the overall context of this passage what does it mean to live in the light (v. 10)?
2. How is that different than to live in Christ (v. 6)?
3. Why would love for our brother rather than love for God serve as a test of being in the light (vv. 9-11).



**HANDS LEVEL:** These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

1. How does this passage encourage you to obey God by loving other members of His Body?
2. What is the source of our victory over the evil one and how can that truth help us to overcome him daily?



**MEMORY VERSE:** 1 John 2:8

*At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.*

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)