**The Mark of True Faith: Love for One Another**

**1 John 2:7-14**

**The New Commandment:**

* True **love**, the kind that pleases the Father, must **express** itself through action.
* Christ’s atoning death makes this **divine** love possible in those who hear the **Gospel** and respond in faith.
* Our love is not merely moral or emotional—it’s ***eschatological****.* It’s a glimpse of the future breaking into the present, part of the unfolding of God’s **redemptive** promises.
* You can’t say you **love** Jesus but **hate** His Church. The claim of being a follower of Christ **falls flat** if it’s not backed up by love.
* A life marked by a **lack** of love is a life out of step with God. This person is on the path to **destruction**.
* However, those who are **truly** in the light—who truly **honors** the love command:
1. Stands in stark **contras**t to those in darkness.
2. **Abides** in the light.
3. Is in no danger of causing **offense** or becoming a **stumbling** block to others.

**An impassioned plea:**

* **Little Children**: Newer to the faith. John writes not because they are *not* saved, but because they *are*—and he deeply desires for them to continue growing in their faith.
* **Fathers**: seasoned believers who, having walked with Christ over time, should be able to affirm and rejoice in the truth of what John is writing.
* **Young Men**: in the prime of spiritual vitality—zealous, engaged, and deeply involved in the work of the kingdom. Their strength is not merely physical or emotional, but spiritual, rooted in the Word of God and manifest in their victory over the evil one.