

# Lessons From I John

---

## Brotherly Love The Old But New Command (I Jn 2:7-11)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
  - a. Greeting...
2. Series of "Lessons From I John."
  - a. We looked last week at "Christian Development."
    - i. The need to understand where we are and where we need to be headed.
  - b. We will look back today at "Brotherly Love, The Old But New Commandment."
    - i. We will examine what the command is.
    - ii. What happens if we don't keep the command.
    - iii. What happens if we do keep the command.
3. It is here we find a central theme throughout the book of I John which is love but specifically brotherly love.
  - a. We see it not only here but also in...
    - i. **I Jn 3:10-24; 4:7-21**
4. Brotherly love is essential to our Christian walk.
  - a. If we, as Christians, cannot love one another here on earth don't think we will be able to in heaven, because we won't be in heaven.
  - b. There are basically four Greek words for love.
    - i. Storge
      1. Means family love.
    - ii. Eros
      1. Means worldly sexual love.
    - iii. Phileo
      1. Means love for dear friends.
    - iv. Agape
      1. Means love based on actively desiring the spiritual best for someone.
  - c. It is agape of course that we find here in our text.
    - i. Agape or the like can be found roughly 250 times from what I can tell.
      1. It has a very prominent role and is the most common form used.
    - ii. Therefore to have "brotherly love" means to actively seek out your brethrens spiritual needs and strive to actively participate in the fulfilling of those needs.
      1. In other words follow Christ's example.
5. We can thusly see the great need now so let us therefore examine this topic that is so very vital to our Christian walk.

# Lessons From I John

---

## I. The Command

- A. It is old (7)
  - 1. It has been around since the beginning.
    - i. There has never been a time where the thought of loving our brother has not been vital as a foundation of the law.
      - a. **Gn 4:8** "Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him."<sup>1</sup>
      - b. **Lv 19:18** "You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."
      - c. **Jn 15:12** "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."
    - ii. The Word is what was heard.
      - a. **Mt 4:17** "From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.""
      - b. **I Co 15:3-4** "What I received I passed on to you. And it is the most important of all. Here is what it is. Christ died for our sins, just as Scripture said he would. 4 He was buried. He was raised from the dead on the third day, just as Scripture said he would be." (NIRV)
  - 2. It is the "Word" you have heard.
    - i. The Word has been around since the beginning.
      - a. **Jn 1:1-2** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God."
    - ii. The Word is what was heard.
      - a. **Mt 4:17** "From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.""
      - b. **I Co 15:3-4** "What I received I passed on to you. And it is the most important of all. Here is what it is. Christ died for our sins, just as Scripture said he would. 4 He was buried. He was raised from the dead on the third day, just as Scripture said he would be." (NIRV)
  - 3. Thus because it was taught by the Godhead from the beginning it is an "old" commandment.
- B. It is new (8)
  - 1. It is new because it is always fresh and never stale.
    - i. It doesn't "sour" with age.
    - ii. It has no expiration date.
      - a. Because
  - 2. It is making the darkness pass away because the true light is shining.
    - i. There is still darkness in the world, ie sin.
      - a. **Ro 3:9-10** "What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. 10 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one"
      - b. **Ro 3:23** "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

---

<sup>1</sup> All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. The use of another translation is not necessarily an endorsement of that translation.

## Lessons From I John

---

- ii. As long as Satan is around and lust is a temptation sin will be around.
    - a. **I Jn 2:16** "For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world." (NKJV)
  - iii. However the light is shining now through the darkness making it flee.
    - a. **Is 9:2** "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone."
    - b. **Mt 4:15-16** "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—  
16 the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned."
  - iv. The light continues to make darkness flee through those being Christ-like.
    - a. **Mt 5:14-16** "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."
- C. It is true (8)
- 1. Because it is in Christ.
    - i. We can read of its validity in Christ's walk here on earth.
      - a. **Mt 9:36** "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."
      - b. **Lk 22:31-32** "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, 32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."
      - c. **Jn 15:13** "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."
    - ii. Thus we find this command true because we can see the evidence in Christ's walk here on earth.
  - 2. Because it is in Christians.
    - i. We can see its validity in our walk here on earth.
      - a. **Je 31:31, 33** "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah...33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

## Lessons From I John

---

- b. **Ja 2:14-17** "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

D. Thus the commandment is old, new and true

### II. What Happens If You Don't Keep The Commandment

- A. That one, will find themselves in darkness (9)
  - 1. There is only one reason why people are in darkness.
    - i. **Jn 3:19-20** "And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed."
  - 2. Darkness is where one hides from the light.
    - i. Light removes darkness so anyone in darkness is hiding.
  - 3. Darkness is where God is not.
    - i. If God is light and light dispels darkness then God is not anywhere near darkness.
    - ii. If God is not near darkness and we are in darkness we are away from God.
- B. That one, will find themselves lost in the dark (11)
  - 1. Have you ever tried to navigate when there is little to no light?
    - i. It is impossible to see anything and we end up sometimes going where we were not intending to go.
    - ii. A blind person, away from their comfort areas, will never be able to find an unfamiliar place, because they have not "light or sight" to find it with.
  - 2. When we hide in the dark away from God we are lost moving around aimlessly.
    - i. **Lk 11:34** "Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness."
    - ii. **Lk 19:10** "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."
      - a. Outside of Christ we are lost in darkness.

### III. What Happens If You Do Keep The Commandment

- A. That one, will abide in the light (10a)
  - 1. The Greek word for "abide" here means...
    - i. "not to depart, not to leave, to continue to be present" (Thayer, J. H. (1889). A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: Being Grimm's Wilke's Clavis Novi Testamenti (399). New York: Harper & Brothers.)

## Lessons From I John

---

- ii. "This word means a. "to stay in a place," figuratively "to remain in a sphere," b. "to stand against opposition," "to hold out," "to stand fast," c. "to stay still," and d. "to remain," "to endure," "to stay in force."" (Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1995). Theological Dictionary of the New Testament (581). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.)
  - a. In other words abiding in the light means remaining or staying in the light.
2. Brotherly love thus helps us walk with Christ and thus stay faithful to God.
  - i. Notice it is the pinnacle of Christian growth.
    - a. **II Pt 1:5-7** "For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love."
      1. Brotherly affection is not "agape" but rather "phileo" here.
      2. Having an affection for dear Christian friends allows for agape love or care for their soul, or the ultimate love.
- B. That one, will have no cause to stumble (10b)
  1. If we reach this goal and maturity of having agape love for one another we will have no reason to fall back into sin.
    - i. **II Pt 1:8** "For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."
  2. Thus we see the need to mature into soul caring love.
    - i. **I Pt 1:22-23** "Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, 23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God"

### CONCLUSION

1. Brothers and sisters let it be said this day that we love one another and so keep the law of Christ, so precious and true.
  - a. Let us mature into a state of soul caring rather than soul observing.
2. Question: Do you truly care for the soul of every brother and sister in Christ?
  - a. This isn't to suggest that we don't care for the lost one's soul but that we have an earnest and sincere love for our fellow Christians souls knowing they have taken hold of the opportunity of salvation.
3. Invitation
  - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
    - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

## Lessons From I John

---

- b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
- i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
  - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
  - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
  - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
  - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
  - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**