

Love One Another (1John 2:7-11)

Introduction: *Review*

This is a book about having joy and fellowship with God (1John 1:3-4). And he's already told us what's involved to begin. "[God] made him who knew no sin to be sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in him" (2Cor 5:21).

Exposition

1. *The Old and New Commandment: Love one another (v. 7-8a)*

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another" (John 13:34). "...not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another" (2John 5).

2. *The In Him and You Encouragement: You do Love one another (v. 8b)*

You do love one another, as Jesus loved you. Even now, in Jesus and in you, the darkness is passing away. Even now, in you, the true light is already shining. People are often so concerned about *getting* assurance. You need to be concerned about *giving* assurance.

3. *The Darkness and Light Discriminant: Love reveals the true heart (v. 9-11)*

Lovelessness reveals lifelessness. "See how they love one another" (Tertullian). We love our enemies. We bless those who curse us. We do good to those who hate us. We pray for those who spitefully use us and persecute us (Matt 5:44).

Application

1. *We must understand what love is.*

This love is forgiveness. This love is self-giving. "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her" (Eph 5:25). "For God so loved the world, that he gave..." (John 3:16). "He or she who loves the most, suffers the most" (Bavinck). "Love suffers long and is kind; love ... hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails" (1Cor 13:5-8).

2. *We must dare to do what love does.*

"There is no safe investment. To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket — safe, dark, motionless, airless — it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. ... The only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers and perturbations of love is Hell" (C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*).