

THE LIGHT OF LOVE FROM FADING DARKNESS

Sunday, June 27, 2021 -- 1st JOHN series -- Msg 9 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

1st JOHN 2:7-8

English Standard Version (ESV)

7 Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. 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. 9 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. 10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. 11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

*12 I am writing to you, little children,
because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.*

*13 I am writing to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.*

*I am writing to you, young men,
because you have overcome the evil one.*

*I write to you, children,
because you know the Father.*

*14 I write to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.*

*I write to you, young men,
because you are strong,
and the word of God abides in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.*

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

In this section, the Apostle John turns the focus to God's love commandment amidst a sinful world where darkness and the evil one seem to dominate.

- the opposition of darkness vs 8, 9, 11
- the opposition of the evil one vs 13, 14

It is easy to lose sight of the basics of knowing the God who is love.

see 1 John 4:8 *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

This section has multiple functions for us:

- it is a reminder of things that God has always said to us.
- it is an encouragement for us not to lose heart amidst much opposition.
- it is a warning that we could be self-deceived
- it is a correction of what we love and desire in this life

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God's Love Commandment has always been from the beginning...

Deuteronomy 6:5

*You shall **love the LORD your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.*

Leviticus 19:18

*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*

Matthew 22:34-40

*34 But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And he said to him, "**You shall love the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall **love your neighbor as yourself**. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."*

'from the beginning' = whether from creation or from Christ both are true

SO WHICH IS IT? 'An Old Commandment' or 'A New Commandment'?? vs 7-8

God's Word PROGRESSIVELY REVEALS who He is, what He demands and what He has planned.

"The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed while the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed."

Augustine of Hippo (354-430AD)

The 'newness' of the commandment is not determined by whether or not it had been stated before, but its newness is seen in how Jesus demonstrated it to us!

vs 8 it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you

Philippians 2:4-8

4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

7 Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. **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.

On the night before He went to the Cross, the Lord Jesus showed us many things about what true love actually looks like. Out of that darkness shines the life of Christ.

John 13:1-17**Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet**

1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. **2** During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, **3** Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, **4** rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. **5** Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. **6** He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" **7** Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." **8** Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." **9** Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" **10** Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." **11** For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

12 When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?" **13** You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. **14** If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. **15** For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. **16** Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. **17** If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Jesus showed us the attitudes and the actions of what it means to truly love others.

- Humility.
- Presence.
- Patience.
- Acceptance.
- Forgiveness.
- Compassion.
- Service/Helping.
- Self-sacrifice.

QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION / MEDITATION / DISCUSSION: 1 John 2:7-8

- 1) The commandment of love begins with receiving Christ as Lord and Savior. Have you received Him?
- 2) Does the way you love people look like the way Christ loves people?
- 3) Why do Christians need to be reminded of Christ's pure love? Why do we get off course?
- 4) How does the world's understanding of 'love' compare to God's true love?
- 5) How does the end of verse 8 encourage your faith and faithfulness to God? see Rev. 21:22-27