

May 22, 2022

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

1 John 2:7-11

“Social Test #1 – Love for God and His People – Part 1”

- I. Prologue – 1:1-4**
- II. Tests of Genuine Fellowship: Cycle (Spiral) #1 – 1:5-2:27**
 - A. The Moral Test – 1:5-2:6**
 - B. The Social Test – 2:7-17**
 - 1. The Commandment (7-8)**
 - a. Old**

b. New

2. The Contrast (9-11)

a. Darkness (9, 11)

b. Light (10)

So what?

Discussion & Application:

1. What are some different meanings for the word “**love**”? Use each of those meanings in a sentence. John uses the Greek word *agapē* in 1 John 2:10, 15. What specifically does that word mean? Is it primarily intellectual, emotional, or volitional? What difference does that make as we interpret this passage of Scripture as a test of genuine salvation?
2. Why does John talk about a **new** commandment and an **old** commandment? How specifically would this address what the false teachers were saying about knowledge? What is the commandment he is talking about? List biblical examples of the “old” commandment. In what sense is the commandment now “new”? (See John 13:34-35)
3. Read **Mt. 22:36-40**. What is the connection between love and the commandments? How does loving God and loving our neighbor fulfill the law?
4. In what sense is the new commandment **true in Jesus**? What makes it possible for this new commandment to be **true in us**?
5. What does John mean by “**the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining**”? What does that have to do with the new commandment being true in us? Is it possible for it to be true in someone who does not know Jesus as Savior and Lord? If not, why not?
6. In **verse 9**, John describes someone who claims to be a follower of Jesus but hates his brother as being someone who is still in darkness. Does that contradict what Jesus said in **Luke 14:26** (see also Mt. 10:32-37)? The Bible can use the words “**love**” and “**hate**” in a comparison (See Mal. 1:1-3; Rom. 9:6-13). How is John using those words in 1 John 2?
7. What is inherent in the false teachings of the Gnostics that might lead someone to hate his brother? What is distinctive about the Gospel of Jesus compared to other religious beliefs that motivates us to love others? List as many things as you can.
8. Why is it sometimes difficult to love fellow believers? What are some **excuses** (rationalizations) professing believers might have for not loving specific people? How would you answer those excuses? Why does Paul write 1 Cor. 13 in the middle of 1 Cor. 12 & 14? Read **1 Cor. 13:4-8a**. How does loving one another in the church that way help us as we engage in ministry together?
9. What is John saying about so-called believers when he says that they are “in the darkness”? Read **verse 11**. What is the connection between being “**in the darkness**,” “**walking in the darkness**,” and having “**the darkness blind their eyes**”? What other passages of Scripture describe unbelievers in a similar way? How does that help us understand why unsaved people are immoral?
10. What is the **stumbling** John is referring to in verse 10? What does love or the lack of love have to do with stumbling? Is it the person’s own stumbling, causing others to stumble, or both?
11. Are you living in obedience to Jesus and His Word? Are you walking as Jesus walked? Is your life characterized by loving God and loving brothers and sisters in Christ? Read **Mt. 25:31-46**. What are some practical ways that love can be demonstrated? What are some practical ways you can love others in the body of Christ this week? Be specific. Plan a time to do it.
12. **Memorize 1 John 2:7-11**. Ask the Lord to use you this week to love others with His love.