

**June 12, 2022**

***The Bridge Bible Fellowship***

**Pastor Paul S. Brown**

**1 John 2:7-14**

**“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 [Exhortation] (7-8)**

**2. The Contrast [Explanation] (9-11)**

**a. Darkness (9, 11)**

**b. Light (10)**

**3. The Constant [Illustration] (12-14)**

**1) Interpretive challenges:** 1) Connection to the surrounding verses? 2) Number of groups? 3) What do they represent? 4) Why repeat them? 5) Why change from present (I am writing) to aorist tense (I have written or I wrote)? 6) Why change the word from little children (tekníon) to children (paidíon)? 7) To whom does “Him who has been from the beginning” refer?

**a. Children**

**b. Fathers**

**c. Young Men**

**So what?**

## Discussion & Application:

1. Clearly 1 John (along with John 13:34-35) says that **love** is one of the hallmarks of true Christians. Although everyone has some capacity to love (see Lk. 6:32), what is different about the true Christian when it comes to loving? What are some other hallmarks of true Christians? Give references for each one.
2. The word “hate” can be used in contrast to “love” (love = choosing to prioritize someone; hate = choosing not to prioritize someone). What are the implications of this when it comes to partiality (James 2) or cliques in the local church? What are some practical ways we can be “devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor...” (Rom. 12:9ff)?
3. What does John mean by “darkness”? What does it mean to be **IN** the darkness? To **WALK** in the darkness? To be **BLINDED** by the darkness? How is it possible to say all the right things about believing in Jesus and still be in the darkness?
4. Look at the “interpretive challenges” on your outline. Why is it important to consider these things when studying a passage?
5. What is the connection between verses 12-14 and the other verses in 1 John 2:7-17? What is new in this section about who or what a true believer loves? (See also 1 John 4:20-21)
6. Look at the following passages and find out what is true of all true Christians (Mt. 13:18-23; Rom. 8:28-30; Phil. 1:6; 1 Cor. 1:3-9; 1 Thess. 3:11-13; 5:24; 2 Thess. 3:3). How is this illustrated in 1 John 2:12-14 (children, young men, fathers)?
7. What are the characteristics of spiritual children? What are some things that would keep spiritual children from maturing?
8. What are the characteristics of spiritual young men? What are the things that helped them mature? What has enabled them to overcome the evil one?
9. What are the characteristics of spiritual fathers? When compared to the children, what is distinct about who they know and how well they know Him? How does someone grow in their experiential knowledge of Him?
10. Are you growing spiritually? Where are you right now on the spiritual growth scale? Children? Young men? Fathers? What steps can you take this week to grow in your love for God?
11. 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 2:12-14.** Ask the Lord to give you greater discipline to study and apply His Word so you can grow in your love relationship with Him and overcome the evil one.