

Loving in the Light

Intro: Love is the greatest thing in the universe. You might be surprised to hear me say that, but I can say that because God himself is love. Jesus said the greatest commandments above which there are none is to love God and your neighbor. All the law and all the prophets hang on those two commandments. Love is the only thing among faith, hope, and love that will last forever, and is therefore the greatest thing. It is also the chief mark of the true Christian. So alien is it to this world, that it is a sort of proof that you have been born from another world. You can therefore both examine yourself for love, and pursue increase in love in order to know that you are a Christian. Therefore pursue love as your highest priority as you live in the light.

T: John's mark of the true Christian follows from the great realities of Christian Truth

1. Background –brother = Christian

- 2 Kingdoms of 2 seeds with 2 natures and 2 affections at war –**Gen 3:15** WWO
- God/Devil, Woman/Serpent, Light/Darkness, Love/hate
- The world hates you – **1Jn 3:13, Matt 10:22; 24:9; John 15:18-19; 17:14** (it is their nature)

T: John therefore reminds you to love, by repeating and magnifying the command of God

2. The command is both old and new 7-8

- Old – the text is the same – (**Lev 19:18**) **3:11, 2John 1:5-6**
- New –
 - mercies are new sense, **2:21, 24, 4:21, 2Jn 1:5-6** – stir you up **2Peter 1:13-15**
 - new fullness by Christ's example sense – **3:16, 4:10-11, John 13:34, 15:12**

T: Love is old and love is new AND

3. Love is the Principle Test of Your Christianity 8-10

- In the light – **3:9, 14, 19, 4:7, 12.** – because you have a new nature that finds God agreeable
- In darkness – **3:8, 10, 12, 14-15, 17** – because they have a nature that finds God odious
- **Matthew 25:31-46**

T: If love is so important as to indicate your possession of eternal life what is it?

4. What is Love and What is Hate?

- Love **10**–finding your delight in the good and goodness of others – inclined to their good
 - Physically – **3:16-17** seek their temporal good
 - Spiritually – **4:7-14** seek their highest eternal good
- Hate **11**– desire to rid yourself of another's full personhood – inclined against their good
 - Active – **3:11-13**
 - Passive – **Deut 15:7-11, Prov 23:22, 1Jn 3:16-18**
 - (neglect) Israel despised the promised land (**Ps 106:24**), and Esau his birthright (**Gen 25:34**).

T: Now let's make some specific pointed application of John's command

5. Application 6 (not mere theory –be a doer of the word)

- Grow in love – **Heb 10:24-25** – I want to do this for you, and you should do it for each other
 - Specifically patience and slowness to anger - **1Cor 13:4-5**
- Mortify Hate – **Eph 4:31-32**
 - Specifically neglect and speech –**Matt 25:24-30, Proverbs 15:1**

T:Gospel love is powerful and it is pleasant.

Conclusion: Seeing the excellence of love, and the pleasantness of love, and the superiority of love, and the reward of love you should make it your chief aim to do everything in love. Study love, know love, love love. Pursue love this year as you have never before. Search yourself for hate and neglect and rid yourself of it. By God's Spirit put to death impatience with your wife or husband, and with your children. As you live in the light in love your assurance will grow up to full confidence that you have been born from incorruptible seed. You will know you are saved. We will know you are saved. The world will know you are saved. The world will know Jesus is sent from God, when you love one another. Therefore pursue love as your highest priority as you live in the light.