



Something Old, Something New

1 John 2:7-11

Big Idea for the Series: Ten weeks of biblical truth designed to show the evidence the Apostle John points to revealing true, saving faith. John said, “I write these things to you so you may know you have eternal life.”

The Bottom Line: To live in the light, you must love others.

Review:

In this 10-week series, Be Real, we’re discussing the biblical truth from the Apostle John that points to true, saving faith. John said, “I write these things to you so you may know you have eternal life (1 John 5:13).” So many people struggle and lack confident assurance in their faith.

In week one, It’s Real, we talked about how men search for meaning, purpose, happiness, and joy in so many things but never really find it unless they are in Christ. And ... being in Christ means belonging to him and living in constant fellowship with him.

In week two, we learned “walking in the light” is to be honest with God, ourselves, and others. As we grow in a more honest and sincere discipleship, our sinful nature is continually brought out of darkness into light, a place where we not only find forgiveness, but healing.

Introduction:

This week, we want to expand on those topics and continue learning how to have confident assurance in our faith from the Apostle John, who heard and saw and touched life – real life that was from the beginning!

As we just said “walking in the light” begins with constantly dragging our sins out of the darkness and into the light. And, as we’ll see today, it continues with growing in love for God and others.

Love is one complicated word, especially in the English language! It’s really difficult to understand how a man can use the same word to express his love for his wife as he uses to tell how he feels about baked beans or a hot dog!

In the Greek language, there are seven words for love that help us correctly express what we’re feeling:

- Agape – The word for God’s love toward man. A Christian’s love for other Christians, and God’s love for His Church.
- Storge – An unconditional, family love.

- Philia – The love expressed in a deep, intimate friendship. It’s not quite as profound or divine as agape.
- Pragma – A committed, companionate love.
- Ludus – A playful, flirtatious love.
- Eros – A romantic, passionate love.
- Philautia – Self-love, proud, arrogant, boastful love of self.

The highest form of love is agape. Agape love changes our hearts. It drives and shapes our Christian faith.

Agape is required for every Jesus follower, and we cannot grow in our faith or be confident in our faith without *agape*. Let’s spend some time in today’s message hearing from John on this subject.

Read: 1 John 2:7-11.

Which is it? Old or new? This seems to be a contradiction, doesn’t it?

The reality is agape love/Christian love, according to the Apostle, is both old and new.

If we look at the language again in the Greek, it helps us answer the dilemma or what seems to be a contradiction.

The Greeks have two different words for “new.” One means “new in time,” and the other means “new in quality.”

The best way to think of this is by using our English words, *recent* and *fresh*. *Recent* means “new in time,” *fresh* means “new in character.”

The commandment to love one another is not new in time, but it is “fresh” or new in character.

What is love? What is agape?

The Apostle Paul helps us out here.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8.

Jesus is the great example of agape.

Read John 15:13.

But Jesus died not only for His friends, but also for His enemies. In fact, as they crucified Him, He prayed for them: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Conclusion:

You see, to walk in the light as Pastor Matt said last week, you must be honest with God, others, and yourself about your sin. You must constantly drag it out of the darkness and into the light.

Part of that is being honest about your hatred of others, confessing that as sin, and putting on purposeful love in its place.

Where does all this begin? In your mind. With your thoughts. Begin by taking all negative, hateful thoughts and make them obedient to Christ. Ask God to help you see that person as He sees them.

You can't be okay with God and at odds with His children. It's impossible!

Next Steps:

- Memorize 1 John 2:10.
- Confess Your Hate.
- Ask God to help you see that person through His eyes.
- Love on Purpose.
- Get Biblical Counseling – southbaychurchli.org/counseling