

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE STUDY INSTITUTE

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“SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW “

I JOHN 2 VS 7-1 1

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INTRO:” I **LOVE** THAT HAT! ““MAN, I REALLY **LOVE** THOSE OLD FASHIONED BAKED BEANS! “ “BUT, MOM, DON’T YOU REALIZE THAT TOM AND I **LOVE** EACH OTHER? “ WORDS, LIKE COINS CAN BE IN CIRULATION SO LONG THAT THEY START WEARING OUT. UNFORTUNATELY THE WORD LOVE IS LOSING ITS VALUE AND IS BEING USED TO COVER A MULTITUDE OF SINS. IT IS 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! WHEN WORDS ARE USED THAT CARELESSLY THEY REALLY MEAN LITTLE OR NOTHING AT ALL. LIKE THE DOLLAR, THEY HAVE BEEN DEVALUED.

AS JOHN DESCRIBES THE LIFE THAT IS REAL HE USES THREE WORDS REPEATEDLY:

1. **LIFE**
2. **LOVE**
3. **LIGHT**

WHEN YOU LOOK AT THIS LETTER YOU WILL FIND THAT HE DEVOTES THREE SECTIONS OF THIS LETTER TO THE SUBJECT OF **CHRISTIAN LOVE**. HE EXPLAINS THAT LOVE, LIFE AND LIGHT BELONG TOGETHER (I JOHN 2 VS 7-11: 3 VS 10-24: 4 VS 7-21)

IN OUR PRESENT STUDY WE LEARN THAT CHRISTIAN LOVE IS AFFECTED BY:

LIGHT AND **DARKNESS**. - A CHRISTIAN WHO IS WALKING IN THE LIGHT (OBEYING GOD) IS GOING TO LIVE HIS CHRISTIAN BROTHER.

IN I JOHN 3 VS 10-24, WE ARE TOLD THAT LOVE IS A MATTER OF:

LIFE OR **DEATH** - TO LIVE IN HATRED IS SPIRITUAL DEATH

IN I JOHN 4 VS 7-21, WE SEE THAT CHRISTIAN LOVE IS A MATTER OF:

TRUTH OR **ERROR** – BECAUSE WE KNOW GODS LOVE TOWARDS US, WE SHOW LOVE TOWARDS OTHERS (I JOHN 4 VS 6)

SO WHEN WE READ THESE THREE SECTIONS WE FIND THREE GOOD REASONS WHY CHRISTIANS SHOULD LOVE ONE ANOTHER:

1. **GOD HAS COMMANDED US TO-** (I JOHN 2 VS 7-11)

2. **WE HAVE BEEN BORN OF GOD AND GOD’S LOVE LIVES IN US** (I JOHN 3 VS 10)

3. **GOD FIRST REVEALED HIS LOVE TO US** (I JOHN 4 VS 7-21) WE LOVE ... BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US!

NOTE: JOHN NOT ONLY WRITES ABOUT LOVE BUT ALSO DEMONSTRATES IT. ONE OF HIS FAVORITE NAMES FOR HIS READERS IS “**BELOVED.** “ HE FELT LOVE FOR THEM.

JOHN IS KNOWN IN THE BIBLE AS THE: “**APOSTLE OF LOVE** “BECAUSE IN HIS GOSPEL HE GIVES SUCH PROMINENCE TO THIS SUBJECT. HOWEVER JOHN WAS NOT ALWAYS THE “APOSTLE OF LOVE “

JESUS GAVE THE APOSTLE JOHN AND HIS BROTHER WHAT NAME?

BOANERGES - SONS OF THUNDER (MARK 3 VS 17) (LUKE 9 VS 51-56)

DIFFERENT MEANINGS OF THE WORD LOVE IN ENGLISH

1. **AGAPE** (ah-GAH- pay) – THIS IS THE GREEK WORD FOR GODS LOVE

A. **TOWARD MAN**

B. **CHRISTIANS LOVE TOWARD ANOTHER CHRISTIAN**

C. **GODS LOVE FOR HIS CHURCH** (EPH 5 VS 22)

2. **PHILIA**- (fee-LAH-ah) - CARRIES THE IDEA OF FRIENDSHIP LOVE – NOT QUITE AS PROFOUND OR DIVINE AS **AGAPE**

3. **EROS** – SENSUAL LOVE – WE GET OUR WORD EROTIC, IT IS NOT USED AT ALL IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

NOTE: THE AMAZING THING IS THAT CHRISTIAN LOVE IS BOTH OLD AND NEW (1 JOHN 2 VS 7-8). THIS SEEMS TO BE A CONTRADICTION. LOVE ITSELF, OF COURSE, IS NOT NEW, NOR IS THE COMMANDMENT- THAT MEN LOVE GOD AND EACH OTHER- A NEW THING. JESUS HIMSELF COMBINED TWO OLD TESTAMENT COMMANDMENTS, (DEUT 6 VS 5: LEV 19 VS 18) AND (MARK 12 VS 28-34) THAT THESE TWO COMMANDMENTS SUMMARIZE ALL THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS. LOVING GOD AND LOVING ONES NEIGHBOR WERE OLD, FAMILIAR RESPONSIBILITIES BEFORE JESUS EVER CAME TO EARTH.

QUESTION: IN WHAT SENSE, THEN, IS “LOVE ONE ANOTHER “A NEW COMMANDMENT? “ (1 JOHN 2 VS 8) AGAIN A LOOK AT THE GREEK HELPS US ANSWER THE QUESTION:

TWO DIFFERENT WORDS THE GREEKS HAD FOR THE WORD “NEW “

1. “ **NEW IN TIME** “ – EXAMPLE (DESCRIBES THE LATEST CAR, A RECENT MODEL)
2. “ **NEW IN QUALITY** “ – IF YOU PURCHASED A CAR THAT WAS RADICALLY DIFFERENT , YOU WOULD USE THIS WORD

TWO ENGLISH WORDS THAT BETTER DEFINE THE TWO WORDS FOR THE WORD “NEW “

1. **RECENT** – MEANS “ NEW IN TIME “
2. **FRESH**- MEANS “ NEW IN CHARACTER “

THE COMMANDMENT TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER IS NOT NEW IN TIME, BUT IT IS NEW IN CHARACTER. BECAUSE OF JESUS CHRIST, THE OLD COMMANDMENT TO “LOVE ONE ANOTHER” HAS TAKEN ON A NEW MEANING. JOHN TEACHES US IN THESE FIVE VERSES (I JOHN 2 VS 7-11) THAT THE COMMANDMENT IS NEW IN THREE IMPORTANT WAYS:

I. IT IS NEW IN EMPHASIS (VS7) ... IN THE PREVIOUS PARAGRAPH (I JOHN 2 VS 3-6), JOHN HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT THE COMMANDMENTS IN GENERAL, BUT NOW HE NARROWS HIS FOCUS DOWN TO ONE SINGLE COMMANDMENT. IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, THE COMMAND THAT GODS PEOPLE WERE ONLY ONE OF MANY, BUT NOW THIS OLD COMMANDMENT IS LIFTED OUT AND GIVEN A PLACE OF PERMINENCE.

QUESTION: HOW IS IT POSSIBLE FOR ONE COMMANDMENT TO STAND HEAD AND SHOUDLERS ABOVE ALL THE OTHERS?

BECAUSE LOVE IS THE FULLFILMENT OF GODS LAW (ROMANS 13 VS 8-10) PARENTS MUST CARE FOR THEIR CHILDREN ACCORDING TO LAW. CHILD NEGLECT IS A SERIOUS CRIME. BUT HOW MANY PARENTS HAVE A CONVERSATION LIKE THIS;

WIFE: YOU BETTER GET AND GO TO WORK. WE DON'T WANT TO GET ARRESTED

HUSBAND: YEAH, AND YOU BETTER GET UP AND GET BREAKFAST FOR THE KIDS, AND GET THEIR CLOTHES READY. THE COPS MIGHT SHOW UP AT ANYTIME.

WIFE: YOUR RIGHT, BOY, IT'S A GOOD THING THEY HAVE A LAW, OR WE WOULD STAY IN BED ALL DAY!

IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE FEAR OF THE LAW IS OFTEN THE MOTIVE BEHIND EARNING A LIVING AND TAKING CARE OF YOUR CHILDREN. PARENTS FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES (EVEN GRUDGINGLY ON OCCASION) BECAUSE THEY LOVE EACH OTHER AND THEIR CHILDREN. TO THEM, DOING THE RIGHT THING IS NOT A MATTER OF THE LAW – IT'S A MATTER OF LOVE! THE COMMANDMENT “LOVE ONE ANOTHER” IS THE FULFILLMENT OF GODS LAW IN THE SAME WAY. WHEN YOU LOVE PEOPLE YOU DO NOT:

1. LIE TO THEM
2. STEAL FROM THEM
3. DO NOT KILL THEM

LOVE FOR GOD AND LOVE FROM OTHERS MOTIVATES A PERSON TO OBEY GODS COMMANDMENTS WITHOUT EVEN THINKING ABOUT THEM! WHEN A PERSON ACTS OUT OF CHRISTIAN LOVE HE OBEYS GOD AND SERVES OTHERS – NOT BECAUSE OF FEAR, BUT BECAUSE OF LOVE.

THIS IS WHY JOHN SAYS “LOVE ONE ANOTHER ‘IS A NEW COMMANDMENT – IT IS NEW IN **EMPHASIS**.

HOW IS THIS COMMAND TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER NEW IN ITS EMPHASIS

- 1. STANDS AT THE TOP OF ITS LIST**
- 2. STANDS AT THE VERY BEGINNING OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

(I JOHN 2 VS 7) “THE OLD COMMANDMENT IS THE WORD WHICH YOU HAD FROM THE BEGINNING “THE PHRASE FROM THE BEGINNING IS USED TWO DIFFERENT WAYS IN JOHNS LETTER:

1. (I JOHN 1 VS 1) – DESCRIBING THE ETERNALITY OF CHRIST, WE READ THAT JESUS EXISTED FROM THE BEGINNING. IN JOHN I VS 1 – A PARALLEL VERSE – WE READ, “IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD. “

2. BUT IN (I JOHN 2 VS 7), THE SUBJECT IS THE BEGINNING OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. THE COMMANDMENT TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER IS NOT AN APPENDIX TO OUR CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE, AS THOUGH GOD HAD AN AFTER THOUGHT. IT IS IN OUR HEARTS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING OF OUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST. IF THIS WERE NOT SO, JOHN COULD HAVE NOT WRITTEN ‘WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE PASSED OUT OF DEATH INTO LIFE BECAUSE WE LOVE THE BRETHREN “(I JOHN 3 VS 14) JESUS SAYS – “BY THIS, ALL MEN WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES BY YOUR LOVE ONE FOR ANOTHER (JOHN 13 VS 35)

EX: BY NATURE, AN UNSAVED PERSON MAY BE SELFISH AND EVEN HATEFUL. AS MUCH AS WE LOVE A NEW BORN BABY, WE MUST CONFESS THAT AN INFANT IS SELF CENTERED AND THINKS THE WHOLE WORLD REVOLVES AROUND HIM/HER.

THE CHILD IS TYPICAL OF AN UNSAVED PERSON – LOOK AT THE COMPARISONS

- 1. FOOLISH**
- 2. DISOBEDIENT**
- 3. DECEIVED**
- 4. MALICE**
- 5. ENVY** (TITUS 3 VS 3)

WHEN A SINNER TRUST CHRIST HE RECEIVES:

- 1. NEW LIFE**
- 2. NEW NATURE**

THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD COMES AND LIVES IN HIM AND THE LOVE OF GOD IS SHED ABROAD IN HIS HEART BY THE SPIRIT (ROMANS 5 VS 5)

GOD DOES NOT HAVE TO GIVE A LONG LECTURE ABOUT LOVE – (I THESS 4 VS 9) A NEW BELIEVER DISCOVERS THAT NOW HE HATES WHAT HE USED TO LOVE, AND NOW HE LOVES WHAT HE USED TO HATE !

SO THE COMMANDMENT TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER IS NEW IN EMPHASIS: IT IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT COMMANDMENTS THAT CHRIST GAVE US (JOHN 13 VS 34) IN FACT “ LOVE ONE ANOTHER “ IS REPEATED AT LEAST A DOZEN TIMES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. (JOHN 13 VS 34; 15 VS 9, 12, 17; ROM 13 VS 8; I THESS 4 VS 9; I PETER 1 VS 22; I JOHN 3 VS 11, 23; 4 VS 7, 11-12; 2 JOHN 5) AND THERE ARE MANY OTHER REFERENCES TO BROTHERLY LOVE.

CLOSE: IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE. IT IS NOT A SHALLOW SENTIMENTAL EMOTION THAT CHRISTIAN TRIES TO WORK UP, SO THEY CAN GET ALONG WITH EACH OTHER. IT IS A MATTER OF WILL RATHER THAN AN EMOTION- AN AFFECTION FOR OR ATTRACTION TO CERTAIN PERSONS. IT IS A MATTER OF DETERMINING TO MAKE UP YOUR MIND – THAT YOU WILL ALLOW GODS LOVE TO REACH OTHERS THROUGH YOU.