

A Life That is Real  
**Session 3: SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW**  
1 JOHN 2:7-11

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**INTRODUCTION**

The commandment to love one another is not new in time, but it is new in character. Because of Jesus, the old commandment to “love one another” took on new meaning. Jesus opens our eyes to the true meaning and reach of this command. In today’s passage, we will see how the commandment is new.

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**UNDERSTANDING**

**1 JOHN 2:7**

*7 Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment—to love one another—is the same message you heard before.*

**Why would John remind his readers of the “old commandment”? Why is it important for followers of Christ to remember the “old” things of the faith?**

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**1 JOHN 2:8**

*8 Yet it is also new. Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, and you also are living it. For the darkness is disappearing, and the true light is already shining.*

**John 13:34-35**

*34 So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. 35 Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”*

Though the command was old, how had it also become new?

How should the love that Jesus displayed for us affect the way we love others? How is this new according to the world's definition of love?

**1 JOHN 2:9-11**

*9 If anyone claims, "I am living in the light," but hates a fellow believer, [a] that person is still living in darkness. 10 Anyone who loves a fellow believer [b] is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble. 11 But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness.*

Why is love for God and love for others always connected? How does discord and hatred with others affect our relationship with God?

**MAIN POINT**

Walking in the light of Christ means allowing His love to compel us toward others—loving and serving our neighbors well.

**PRAYER**

Pray for the Lord to remind you of the truth that is found in Him. Fix your eyes on Jesus who perfectly demonstrated the truth. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you take steps further in and toward love.