

# A New Commandment

## **1 John 2:7-11**

**Introduction:** So far John has dealt with having fellowship with God. Now he deals with fellowship among the brethren. One of the things he points out is that fellowship among Christians is important and does have an effect upon one's eternal destiny.

Thus, we can see John's words in **1 John 5:13** working here as well. ***“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”***

### **I. What Is This Commandment?**

- A.** It soon becomes apparent from the context that it concerns loving a brother (**cf. vv. 9-11**).
- B.** Some see a problem, maybe a contradiction in John's words.
  - 1.** Keep in mind he is interested primarily in the **commandment** and secondarily in the **new** and **old**.
  - 2.** Two words in New Testament Greek most often translated as **“new.”**
    - a.** One (neos) *“signifies ‘new’ in respect of time, that which is recent”* (Vine, ecv).
    - b.** Other (kainos) means *“not ‘new’ in time, recent, but ‘new’ as to form or quality”* (Vine, ecv).
    - c.** The second word is used here.
- C.** The **“old”** sense.
  - 1.** Israel to love neighbor (**Lev. 19:18**). Other Israelites.
  - 2.** Also to love God completely (**Deut. 6:5**).
- D.** The **“new”** sense.
  - 1.** A ready acknowledgment of the old (**Matt. 22:36-40**).
  - 2.** But a “fresher” application (broader).
    - a.** Who is my neighbor (**Lk. 10:25-37**).
    - b.** Love enemies (**Matt. 5:43-44**).
    - c.** Love brethren (**Jn. 13:34-35; 15:12, 17; 1 Peter 1:22**).
- E.** What does it mean to love one another?
  - 1.** Word used (agape) means *“active goodwill toward one's fellow man”* (Willis, p. 265).
  - 2.** It is the love that seeks to meet the needs of others (**1 Jn. 3:16-17**).
  - 3.** *“In secular Greek it represented a love in which the mind analyzes and the will chooses the object to be loved”* (Burdick, p. 140).
  - 4.** *“It was often used in contexts demanding the translation, ‘to show love,’ which indicates that it is not a possessive but a giving love”* (op. cit.)

**II. Light And Love Are Mutually Compatible.**

- A.** This is a simple case of words matching deeds.
  - 1.** If they do not match, any claim is worthless.
  - 2.** If they do match, the claim stands.
  - 3.** *cf. 1 John 3:18.*
- B.** Light.
  - 1.** Jesus is light (*John 1:6-9; 8:12*).
  - 2.** Christians are to be light also (*Matt. 5:14-16; Phil. 2:15*).
- C.** Love.
  - 1.** God is love (*1 Jn. 4:8*).
  - 2.** We are also to exhibit love (*1 Jn. 4:11*).
  - 3.** Selfless love (*Jn. 15:13*).

**Conclusion:** I can think of no better way to end this lesson than with the simple exhortation found in *Hebrews 13:1*, “**Let brotherly love continue.**”