

The Command and the Contrast of Love

I John 2:7-11

Intro (Matthew 28:16-20) - "The Great Command is not to make disciples here merely profess faith in Christ, but those whose obedience to God's Word bears witness to their verbal profession. As disciple makers, we must realize that if we are not training believers to pattern their lives after Jesus Christ as revealed in the written Word of God, then we are not making disciples, no matter how many 'decisions for Christ' we may encourage or even witness."

- John preached the gospel so unbelievers could come to faith (John 20:30-31)
- John wrote 4 letters (1-3 John, Revelation) to help believers grow in their faith
- I John written so believers could be assured of their salvation (I John 5:13)

What is true of someone who trusts in the Lord Jesus Christ savingly?

1. A true believer keeps the command of love (I John 2:7-8a)
 - a. Old Commandment – Love taught from the beginning of the Christian community (I John 3:23)
 - b. New Commandment – Love *exemplified* in Christ (John 13:34-35) and *empowered* by the Holy Spirit (John 14:15-17)
2. A true believer understands the contrast of love (I John 2:8b-11)
 - "Men fall into two classes, those who are in fellowship with God, and therefore walk in light and love, and those who are not in fellowship with God, and therefore walk in darkness and hatred."
 - a. Those who walk in darkness manifest hate for believers (I John 2:9, 11)
 - "The man who is in darkness and who is walking in the darkness and whose mind is dark is an occasion of stumbling both to himself and to everybody else. Because he has this unloving spirit within himself, everything he comes into contact with is going to cause him to stumble, and because he is an unloving person he causes other people to stumble also."
 - b. Those who walk in the light love believers and there is no cause of stumbling in them (I John 2:10)
 - "Their eyes have been opened; they have understood the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the result is that there is no cause for stumbling in them. They do not trip and stumble constantly as they go about the world and meet people, and so other people do not stumble because of them. *There is something about them that draws the best out of others.*"

How do we move forward loving one another biblically?

1. Identify areas of grace (Focus on who believers are in Christ and what God is doing in believers lives)
 - a. Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
 - b. Gifts of the Spirit (Romans 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:11, I Peter 4:10-11)
 - c. God's faithfulness (I Corinthians 1:8-9)

