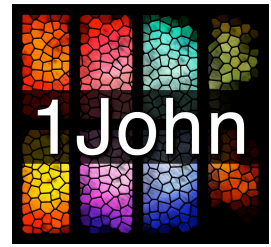


# 1 John

2: 3-11

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*“From Light to Love”*

## John’s Style

- Circular or Thematic Paul is Formulaic, Linear.
- He may seem repetitious but he’s weaving a tapestry.

## V3 Assurance unique to Christianity

- The certainty of relationship with God and assurance of eternal destiny is only found in the Christian faith amongst the world’s religions.

## V4-5 One Sided Affair

- Jesus is full of grace and mercy for each believer but it’s not a one sided affair.
- To know God is to love God, and to love God is to obey God.

## V6 Jesus is Great

- Forgives, Invites, Guides us into life with the Father.
- We’re not left wondering how to follow God.

## V7 “Dear Friends”

- John’s method reflects message.
- When relating to other Christians living in sin, we must always appeal in love and tenderness

## V7 Love One Another

- Lev. 19:18 – God’s desire for his people from the very beginning
- Bedwell Example of love

## V8 Old but New in Jesus

- Jesus is the fullness of this commandment, he best embodies it
- Matt 22: 36 “What is the greatest commandment?” Jesus links the love of God to the love of others. They can’t be divorced.
- To Know God is to Love God, to Love God is to Obey God, to Obey God is to Love Others
- Jesus lived this commandment (through his life and death) and the church is already living it. We’re on the way!

## V9 God’s Love and My Hate Don’t Mix

- If we really understood God’s vast and deep love, we couldn’t hate others

- God’s overwhelming love and grace should overwhelm our interpersonal relationships also.

#### V10 The Lies of Darkness

- Whether we’re living in the light or in the darkness, we’re not living in isolation
- No sin is victimless (pride, jealousy, ambition, unresolved anger, idol worship, etc). No act of love fruitless (mercy, patience, kindness, generosity, etc)
- We may not feel we “hate” anyone, as John writes. But John writes using contrast for emphasis (light/dark , life/death, love/hate, etc)
- So there may be more to “hate” or “love” than meets the eye.
- “Love your neighbor as yourself” must stretch far.

#### V11 Darkness Like Blindness

- Step into the light and see things as they are.
- See the world as God sees it, or people as God sees them with clear vision and perspective.

Jesus didn’t just live and die to show you love. He lived and died to show you how to love others. This is God’s grand plan, to invite us to join Him in transforming the world by His love.

What God had up his sleeve all along was really to invite us out of darkness and into light, which ultimately means he invites us out of darkness and into love.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- Do you feel your understand with “certainty” your relationship with God and what eternity will hold for you? Have you every wrestled with this?
- How have you expressed love toward God through obedience to him in the past?
- What fruit have you seen come from this?
- How did Jesus live as a positive example of obedience to God? Can you recall any stories?
- Is obedience a difficult notion for this day and age? How does obedience contrast with our culture’s thoughts on how to live?
- Where have you seen God’s love disarm hate?
- If John uses “hate” as hyperbole for any sin against another brother or sister, what kind of personal or hidden sin affects others in ways we may not always be aware?
- What kinds of acts of love have ripple affects we don’t always notice?