

A New/Old Commandment

"What The World Needs Now" series- Part 01

Use the next few minutes to connect and fellowship with other members of the group by speaking to the following situation: How has someone made you feel really loved in the past week? What was the impact on you?

We live in a world where there are constant product improvements. In with the new...out with the old! Sometimes this is great! I am not sure what I would do if I no longer had my camera, phone, GPS, and computer in one device that fits in the palm of my hand. I guess I would just carry four different instruments like I did in "the old days".

Yet, there are times when the "New" just doesn't measure up to the "Old". There is a list of products that fit this description: New Coke. McDonald's Arch Deluxe. Ford Edsel. Sony Betamax. Harley Davidson Perfume???

What is your most memorable product change that you feel failed miserably?

Jesus in His last meeting with all of the disciples before His crucifixion, introduces a "NEW" commandment: *I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.* John 13:34-35 NLT

Would His new commandment stand the rigors of testing...the taste test? Is His new commandment really new and improved?

In our discussion for today's study, let's look to what John, the apostle of love, had to say about this commandment and how indeed it is both old and new!

Book: I John 2:5-11

1 John 2:5 But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love Him. That is how we know we are living in Him.

1 John 2:6 Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

1 John 2:7 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.

1 John 2:8 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.

1 John 2:9 If anyone claims, "I am living in the light," but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is still living in darkness.

1 John 2:10 Anyone who loves another brother or sister is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble.

1 John 2:11 But anyone who hates another brother or sister is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness.

Let's see what Bible truths we can learn from the above passage of Scripture, by using the following questions in a group discussion:

John states that to know God and to love God is demonstrated when we obey God's word. Discuss the following questions:

1. How is this commandment both old and new?
2. *"The commandment...you have had from the very beginning"*. How will we know how to practice this commandment?
3. *"Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, and you also are living it."* What is implied in this statement? Can we live this commandment like Jesus lived it? How?

In John 2:4 and in verse 6, John states that there are people who "claim" and who "say" that they are followers of God. How can this passage of Scriptures be used to point out false teachers?

What does it say about true believers when we do not live out the old/new commandment in our life?

How central is our relationship with Christ to practicing Biblical love? What steps could you take to prioritize or intensify your relationship with Christ?

How do we chase away the darkness that John speaks of in this passage?

Let's talk about how you can go on mission this week:

Who do you know that needs to receive a loving and kind act this week? What will you do?

Can you identify some flawed thinking that is robbing you of experiencing God's love in its fullness? Who can you meet with this week and share your concern and seek advice?