

“A CALL TO A LOVING ATTITUDE”

The Social Test of Authentic Christianity

1 John 2:7-11

Bruce Henry / 10.8.2017

- Last week, in 1 John 2:3-6, we looked at “A Call to _____” (The _____ Test of Authentic Christianity).
- This week, in 1 John 2:7-11, we take a look at “A Call to a _____” (The _____ Test of Authentic Christianity).

Loving one another is an essential mark of a true Christian.

I. THE TIMING OF LOVE. 1 John 2:7

God’s love _____.

- A. Jesus’ command to love one another is both old and new.
- B. From the beginning of your Christian walk, you should learn how to establish and maintain loving relationships.

II. THE TRUTH OF LOVE. 1 John 2:8

God’s love _____.

- A. Your new relationship with Jesus Christ is central to practicing biblical love toward others.
- B. Growing in love for others is a lifelong process.

III. THE TEST OF LOVE. 1 John 2:9-11

God’s love _____.

- A. If you hate your brother, your profession of being in the light is exposed as false. 9
- B. If you love your brother, you abide in the light and have no cause for stumbling in you. 10
- C. If you hate your brother, you are still in the darkness, you walk in the darkness, and you do not know where you are going because you are spiritually blind. 11

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION/DISCUSSION

OPEN

- How would you define the concept of love (in this passage) to a child?
- What is the difference between love and kindness?
- Is it easier to show simple kindness to our Christian brothers and sisters rather than real love? If so, why is that?

UNPACK

- 2:7-8 What did John say he was giving to his readers? In what sense is the command an old one? (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:34-40; John 13:34-35).
- 2:9-11 How are claiming to be a Christian and loving one’s fellow Christians related?
- 2:10 If a person loves his brother, “there is nothing in him to make him stumble.” What does this mean, and why is it so?
- 2:11 What happens to a person who hates?

UNDERSTAND

- In what ways did Jesus make new the old command to love?
- Do you think it is possible to examine a person’s attitude and action of love and determine if he or she is a believer? Why?
- What does the way in which we treat other believers reveal about us?
- What changes would true love require of us in the way we relate to each other?
- How would loving others keep us from stumbling into sin in our homes? In our church family?
- What are some ways Christians show indifference or careless disregard to each other?
- What is hate? Why do people hate?

APPLY

- Is there anyone whom you are failing to love, not because you hate them emotionally, but because you just do not care?
- Is there anyone you should love more actively? (Ask God about this.) If so, what should you do?