



Gospel of Grace
FELLOWSHIP

1 John 2:7-8
**Love: The New and Old
Commandment**
by Bob DeWaay
May 15, 2016

The Old and Current Command

1John 2:7a (ESV)
Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning...

- That this is the command to love is clear from the context
- To “walk as He walked” in verse 6 is to walk in love
- “from the beginning” has a range of meaning but here likely denotes when they heard the gospel
- The command to love was in Lev. 19:18

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The Essential Christian Message

1John 2:7b (ESV)
The old commandment is the word that you have heard.

- That the command to love is not new or novel is a good thing
- The Christian faith and Christian ethics are grounded in God’s revelation from Genesis on
- Love is the proclamation they received as the essential Christian message (John 3:16)

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**The Love of God Is Epitomized
in Christ**

1John 2:8a (ESV)

At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you . . .

- Jesus made this command central to the gospel
- This new law is realized in Christ and in believers
- Jesus fulfilled the law which is summarized by the command to love
- His selfless love defines love for believers (1John 3:16)

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**Darkness Is Dissipating and
Light Is Shining**

1John 2:8b (ESV)

...because the **darkness** is passing away and the true **light** is already shining.

- Jesus in the Incarnation brought light in a new way that has changed everything (John 1:9)
- The light brought by Christ is only saving light for those who believe (John 12:46)
- Christ defines what is "true" or "genuine" light

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Implications and Applications

- The command to love is foundational to Christian ethics
- Christ's love is expressed in the church through loving one another
- Christian love is selfless not self-seeking
- God's love is defined by His giving of His Son

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Love and Christian Ethics

Matthew 22:36-37 (NASB)
“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

- Deut. 6:5; Lev. 19:18
- Love is never defined by human sentimentality

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Love One Another

John 13:34, 35 (NASB)
A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

- We need Christ and one another because the world hates us (John 15:18)
- God’s work and word leads to mutual love (1Thessalonians 4:9)

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**Christian Love Is Selfless
Not Self-Seeking**

Ephesians 5:1, 2 (NASB)
Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as **Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us**, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

- Love is a communicable attribute of God
- Christ’s laid down life defines selfless love (1John 3:16)
- We must live for Christ not self (2Corin. 5:15)

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**God's Love Is Defined by His
Giving of His Son**

John 3:16 (NASB)

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

- We are in danger of perishing
- We must believe in Christ

