



Pray

As you pray this week, consider how you can voice your thanks to God for the promises behind His commands. If need be, ask God to help you regularly make the connection between His commands to us and His promises for us.

How can this passage impact the way you pray for yourself and others?

Could you change your prayer habits to help you more closely follow Christ's example of love? If so, try to do that during our sermon series to create a new discipline.



A New Old Command | 1 John 2:7-11
Study Guide 4 for sermon on 01/24/2021



Introduction

“What a small world!” How many times have you thought that to yourself or said it out loud? It happens when different parts of your life intersect and create a surreal moment. Sometimes this type of surreal moment happens in our faith as well. The gospel message, a passage of scripture, times of prayer, spiritual disciplines, and more can all collide causing clarity and marvel at the depth of life with Christ. Hopefully, this week's text will do just that for us as we seek to unearth what God is telling us through 1 John.



Overview

Context:

This section in chapter 2 can begin to feel repetitive after what we studied in chapter 1 and the first six verses of chapter 2...but there is so much more here! Verses 7-11 tie together the first few points of study we've looked at in 1 John – the trustworthiness of the gospel, walking in the light, and identity in following Christ.

Here we will study the connection between the gospel's longevity, the transition the world is going through, and the simplicity of following Christ. We get to see many themes come together and be bonded together by one thing – love!

Structure:

- I. A new but old command (v. 7)
- II. The command characterized by light (v. 8)
- III. The command carried out in love (vv. 9-11)



Engage

(1 John 2:7-11)

1. In both this week's text and last week's text (2:1-6), we see the audience addressed in a tender way ("*Dear friends*" & "*My little children*"). This type of language is common through John's epistles. What other terms does scripture use to describe God's love for you?
2. What do you think the "old" command is? What do you think the "new" command is?
3. What aspects of the old & new command are the same or similar? Also, what aspects of them are different?
4. The latter half of verse 8 reads: "*because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.*" What does this mean for us?
5. Verse 9 forces us to consider and self-evaluate our own actions. What are the areas of your life where you are failing short and need to repent of your actions?
6. As the themes from our first few weeks in 1 John collide, we realize that we must walk in love with each other. How can this be done better as the body of Christ that gathers at SSBC?
7. Are there relationships with non-believers where you are still walking in the darkness instead of shining the light of Christ into their lives? If so, what can you do to change that?
8. What things of this world can still tempt you to draw your attention away from God? Consider things that draw lots of your time and attention.
9. What characteristics of God or passages of scripture give you confidence as you walk in love?
10. Who is a fellow brother or sister in Christ that you can encourage this week that you know has been struggling to live out their faith as they want to?