Day 7 - Something New, Something Old

1 John 2-11

In the study for today, Chapter 2: 7-11, we learn how Christian love is affected by light and darkness.

1. In verses 7-8, why should a Christian love? And John tells us an interesting truth about this love. What is it?

2. Look up the following verses:

Deut. 6:5

Lev. 19:18

In Mark 12:28-34, what does Jesus tell us about these 2 commandments?

In John 13:34, near the end of His earthly ministry, what did Jesus say?

3. John reflects Jesus’ teaching. So in what sense is love one another “new”?

Note: A look at the Greek word for “new” helps to answer the question. There are two words for “new” in the Greek. “New” can mean “new in time”; or it can mean “new in quality”. “New in time” could be translated recent in English. “New in quality” can mean “fresh” in English. It’s the latter we have in view here. For example, I might say, I’m born again and I have a new (fresh) way of looking at things. It’s connected to my new character in Christ.

4. Because of Jesus Christ, the old commandment has taken on new meaning in 3 important ways: emphasis (John 13:35), example (v8), and experience (v9-11). Explain.

5. Read verses 10 & 11. What happens to the Christian who does not love the brethren?

6. John brings us to a sobering truth. It is impossible to be in fellowship with the Father and out of fellowship with another Christian at the same time. Christian love means we treat others the way God treats them, and the way God treats us. Christian love is not feelings; it is not just words, but it shows itself in action and in attitude.

According to these verses, when we practice Christian love, what positive results will we see in our walk?

**Application:** 1. Test your Christian love by personalizing 1 Cor. 13:4-7. Put your name in the place of love. Example: “Ruth suffers long and is kind.”

Then go to God in prayer. Help Him to help you in an area where you continually fall short. Perhaps, overall you do well, but struggle to love a brother or sister in Christ, as you should. Allow God to speak to your heart. Remember, our fellowship with God will be hindered if we do not practice biblical love.

2. When you have time, read these three sections on Christian love and see how love, life and light must not be separated if we are to walk in love. (1 John 2:7-11; 3:10-24; 4:7-21)