



## “Walking As Jesus Did” (1 John 2:3-11) 2014

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Intro: Even before teaching this section of Scripture, I want to confess how I long to be more like Jesus, and how far I feel I have to go in seeing this become a reality. Does anyone else feel that way? Lord, makes us more like you.

vv.3-4 John is a pretty straight shooter, isn't he? See also I John 5:13; Not long after I became a Christian, I remember my uncle Ed and uncle James arguing over whether or not you can know that you are saved. Uncle Ed said no one could really know, and uncle James then turned to I John 5:13.

See I John 3:17-20; James 2:14-18; You are on really shaky ground if you can't back up your Christian claim with actions; See Luke 6: 46-49.

vv.5-6; See I John 4:16b-17

- Walking as Jesus did = Walking in love
- John 15:12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you...17 This is my command: Love each other.
- Note: This is impossible unless we are willing to be relational with one another; small groups, etc. (Acts 2:42, 46).

vv.7-8 How can it not be a new command and yet be a new command? See Luke 10:25-27 (Deut.6:5; Lev.19:18). It's not new in that it is the second greatest commandment in The Law. Next week's text deals more with the first greatest commandment. So how is it new? See Matt.5:38-48 (context).

The only living examples of what God was supposed to be like in the days Jesus' first coming were the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Teachers of the Law. They were proud, self-righteous, religious bigots. They condemned “tax collectors and sinners,” and would never associate with them. Though they claimed to know God and thought they were examples for God, they were in reality the opposite of what God is really like. Jesus went so far as to call them “children of the devil.” So their lives exemplified more the character of the devil than the character of God. Enter Jesus.

John 1: 18 No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

Hebrews 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and exact representation of his being.

John 6:46 no one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.

See John 14:5-10.

Truth and love had never before been perfectly personified in a human being until Jesus showed up on the scene. The world can now know what God is really like in living, breathing flesh (Read John 1:1, 14); One of His names is "Emmanuel," which means "God with us" (Isa.7).

Now, verse 8 of our text is very interesting (read again). Here is the real mind blower! The newness of the commandment (love) is seen in Jesus, and God has also made it possible to be seen **in us**, His children, Jesus' disciples!

That last phrase, "the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining," seems to refer to the evidence of real love being manifest in this present dark world, and that evidence points to a future world where there is no darkness, only love. That's the world we will one day live in, because we will all be 100 % like Jesus (I John 3:2).

The greatest evidence of true Christianity?

- John 13:34-35 A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By **this** all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Let's dissect Jesus' personification of love, just so we get a clear picture.

Full of Compassion/Mercy

- Matthew 9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
- Psalm 116:5 The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.
- James 5:11...The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.
- This involves more than warm, fuzzy feelings (Luke 10:25-37)

Inviting/Welcoming

- Matthew 11:19...a friend of tax collectors and sinners...

Humble

- John 13:1...Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

- Eph.4:2 Be completely **humble**...

### Confrontational

- Jesus and the woman at the well (John 4)
- The rich young ruler (Mark 10:21)
- Jesus and the Pharisees(Matthew 23:13-39)
- Stephen's message (Acts 7)
- Rev.3:19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline...
- Prov.27:5 Better is open rebuke than hidden love.

### Forgiving

- Matthew 6:14-15 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.
- Matthew 18:21-35
- Col.3:13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.
- I Cor.13:5b...it keeps no record of wrongs.
- Psalm 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
- Psalm 32:1-2

vv.9-11 The word "hate" can mean a literal hatred, like King Saul developed toward David. But it can also mean neglect.

- Prov.13:24 He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.

So there are two practical applications to these final verses, and it pretty much summarizes our text very well. Read I John 4:19-21. If I am truly Christ's disciple, and a child of God, I will "bear with", and I will forgive, as I have been forgiven. Secondly, I will not neglect my brother. Read once more I John 3:17-18. Refer also to Matthew 25:31-46.

### Conclusion

- Am I truly a Christian? If so, it will be evidenced by practical actions that accompany my faith, and by bearing with and forgiving others in the same way God bears with and forgives me. What an amazing love He extends to us! May we increasingly extend that love to one another, and to the world. Lord, make us more like you each day!