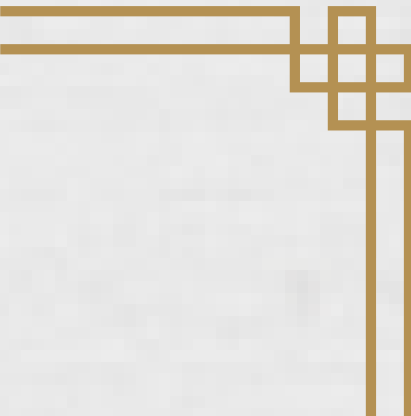
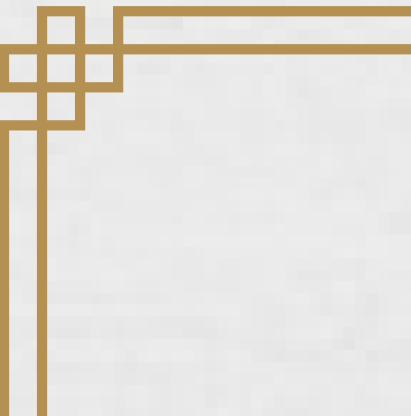
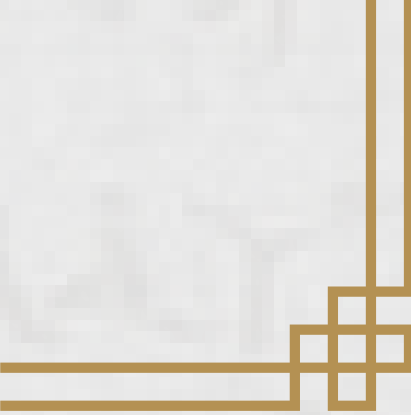
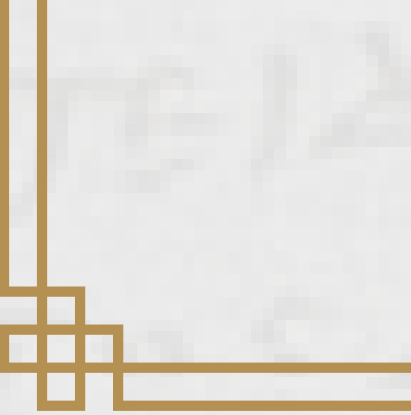


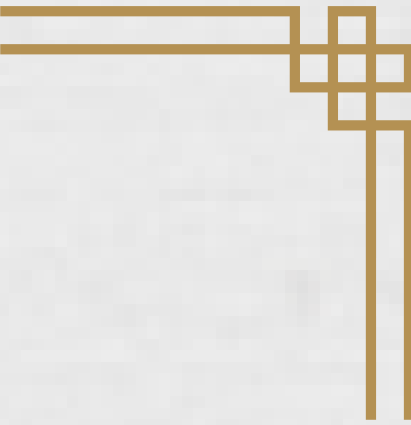
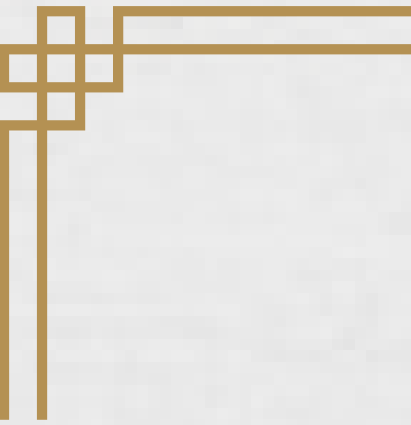


1 John

An Exegetical Series

**1 John 2:1-11: Sin, Forgiveness, and
Christian Authenticity**

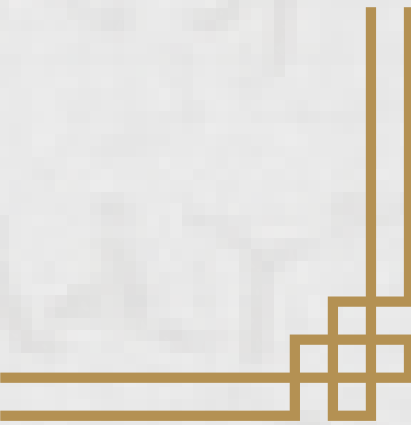
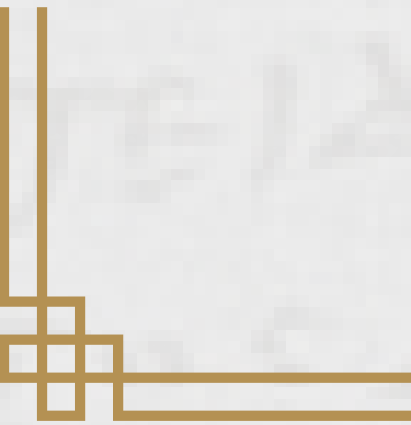




1 John

An Exegetical Series

1 John 2:7-11: God's Love and its Authentic Expressions in the Christian Life



The New/Old Command

What Does John Mean? (v. 7)

- ▶ The Command he gives us both not a new command but an old command
- ▶ What Do you think is the reference John is making here and why?

What is the Old Testament Law?

In simple terms, the “Law,” —translated as *Torah* in Hebrew and also known as *The Mosaic Law* —is the covenant document we know as the *Ten Commandments*, which was expanded upon in *Exodus 19-31*, given through *Mosaic Covenant* on Mount Siani.

It was given specifically to Israel as a temporary covenant administration that both revealed God's righteousness and anticipated its fulfillment in Jesus Christ, the mediator of the New Covenant.

The O.T. Law and the Gospel

A Short, Biblical Overview

- ▶ The “Law” has been fulfilled in Christ and now laid down in light of faith in Christ due to his finished work through his life, death, resurrection, and ascension (Gal 3:19-26; Heb 8:13)
- ▶ The Mosaic Law is, then, no longer binding upon Christians since it has been fulfilled and we now experience the grace of God through faith in Christ
- ▶ We are now under the “law of Christ” which culminates in love which, interestingly, fulfills the law (Gal 5:14)

The Christian Conscience and the Law

- ▶ The Christian's standing before God is not determined by the Mosaic Law or ceremonial practices, but by Christ.
- ▶ The conscience still matters, but it functions as a **God-given guide**, not our final authority for Christian freedom is governed by **love** (1 John 2:7-11), not merely by what we know we are free to do.
- ▶ We should willingly limit our freedom if it would wound the conscience of a weaker believer. A Christian's conscience is **not infallible**—It must be shaped and corrected by God's Word by the Spirit as we mature in Christ.

The Christian Conscience and the Law

- ▶ Christ—not the Law, determines our standing before God.
- ▶ Conscience—is a guide, not our highest authority.
- ▶ Scripture—shapes and corrects the conscience.
- ▶ Love—governs how we use our Christian freedom.
- ▶ Maturity—means growing in both knowledge and love by the Spirit.

The Christian Conscience and the Law

- ▶ In essence, the Christian's conscience is not the master, but a God-given guide that *must* be shaped by Scripture and exercised in love toward others through the power of the Holy Spirit

Love, Light, and Darkness

John's Teaching is Jesus' Teaching (v. 7-8)

- ▶ The vocative voice, “Dear friends” signals to us that we are entering into a new section, but the implications are connected to the preceding context (1 John 1:5-2:6)
- ▶ The command is connected, specifically, to love and the completeness of God's love within the believer (2:5)
- ▶ In essence, though, John is simply saying that the command he is giving in terms of “walking as Jesus walked” is nothing new—it goes back to **Jesus** himself which, then the **O.T.**, and ultimately the **Trinity**

Love, Light, and Darkness

John's Teaching is Jesus' Teaching (v. 7-8)

- ▶ What is meant by this command being both “old” and “new” in the same breath? The Gospel message!
- ▶ **The Covenantal Shift:** Jesus demonstrated a love that was the fulfillment of what the Law required and also set forth a tangible path for those who have faith in him to follow
- ▶ This is why we see the inclusion in v. 8, “true in *him* and in *you*”

Love, Light, and Darkness

John's Teaching is Jesus' Teaching (v. 7-8)

- ▶ The inclusion of v. 8, “true in *him* and in *you*” points us to the **Metaphysical** (= *reality*) dimension of the Christian faith and it relates back to us and our experience in the New Covenant in Christ
- ▶ In other words, we see Jesus' originating love from the Triune-Godhead and its initial command rooted in the Old Testament (Deut. 6:4) and how the believer experiences God's Triune love while also expressing that love to others

Love, Light, and Darkness

John's Teaching is Jesus' Teaching (v. 7-8)

- ▶ Due to the reality of the Gospel, we see people enabled to experience the New Covenant chiefly expressed in God's love through Christ wherein we see people changed from darkness to light (see Col 1:13)
- ▶ Literally, we see darkness being overcome and passing away as people come to the light of Christ, expressed in a love that reflects the Triune God
- ▶ God's love in Christ's atonement brings cosmic change!

The light that Jesus brought into the world shines not only in him, but “in you” (ἐν ὑμῖν), those who walk in the light. Darkness is being extinguished as more and more people come to faith in Christ and live out God’s love in the world. As God moves history toward its final culmination, darkness and all that is associated with it is passing away. The coming of the light is “already” (ἤδη) here, rather than something that is merely promised for the eschatological future, and John’s readers need to align themselves with it, for it is “the true light” (τὸ φῶς τὸ ἀληθινόν). Any alleged light that is not centered in Christ is false, not the genuine light that God is (1:5).

Karen H. Jobes, [1, 2, & 3 John](#), ed. Clinton E. Arnold, Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014), 96.

Love, Light, and Darkness

Love = In the Light | Hate = In the Darkness (v. 9-11)

- ▶ The theological root of love found in the Triune God, expressed in and poured out from the life and work of Christ is narrowed to loving our “brothers and sisters.”
- ▶ This does not contradict Jesus’ teaching that we are to (a) love our neighbors (Matt 22:39) or our enemies (Matt 5:44; Luke 6:27, 35)
- ▶ Rather, it is an emphasis within the command to love in the way Jesus loved

Love, Light, and Darkness

Love = In the Light | Hate = In the Darkness (v. 9-11)

- ▶ What does it mean to hate a brother or sister? If we think about how Jesus loved, what might our answer be to this question?
- ▶ John gives some answers to this question found in 1 John 3:11-24.
- ▶ While we have not covered that portion of Scripture yet, John is making a general statement about one's profession of faith in Christ

Love, Light, and Darkness

Love = In the Light | Hate = In the Darkness (v. 9-11)

- ▶ The person who professes faith in Christ and loves his/her brother and sister in Christ loves them generally, and specifically does not cause a brother or sister to stumble or entice them away from God's will in their lives
- ▶ This is a converse description of "hating" a brother or sister in context!
- ▶ Hating a brother or sister is disregarding their lives by causing them to stumble into sin or away from God's will

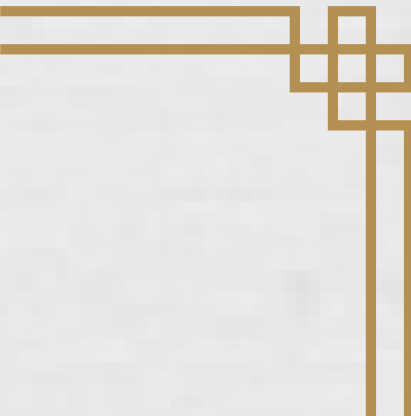
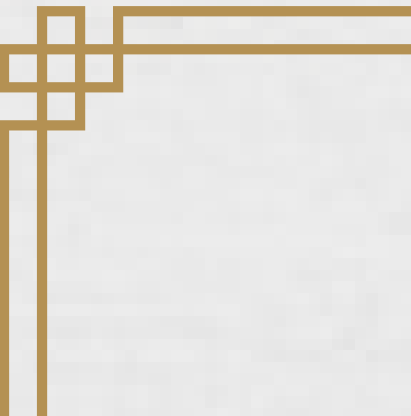
Love, Light, and Darkness

Love = In the Light | Hate = In the Darkness (v. 9-11)

- ▶ Equally, hating a brother and sister by causing them or enticing them into sin or against God's will demonstrates a stark reality—these people are not of the light, rather:
 - They walk in darkness
 - They have no direction in the light
 - They are blinded by their own sin
- ▶ Darkness is not neutral! Walking in darkness brings spiritual and moral blindness and harm

1 John 2:7-11 Reflection Questions

- ◆ If someone observed your relationships within this church over the past month, would they conclude that you are merely avoiding hatred—or actively displaying the self-giving love of Christ? What evidence would they point to?
- ◆ Is there anyone in our church family have you simply stopped pursuing, encouraging, praying for, serving, or forgiving?



1 John

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