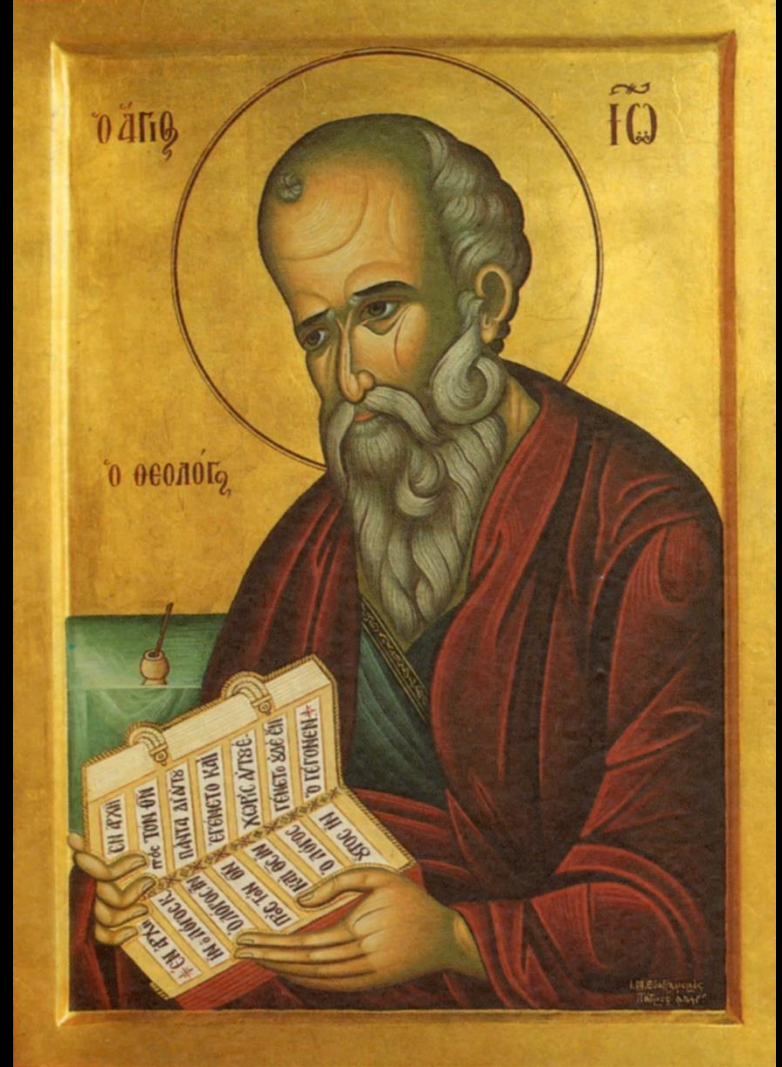


The Old/New Commandment

1 John 2:7-11



The Old/New Commandment

Introduction

The Old/New Commandment

Introduction

- **Author:** John the Apostle
- **Date:** 90 AD (more or less)
- **Setting:** Ephesus
- **Recipients:** Believers in and around Ephesus in the Roman province of Asia.

The Old/New Commandment

Introduction

- Certain teachers with looser morals and fuzzy doctrine have caused division in the churches of Asia.
- They broke off into splinter groups by rejecting the elderly apostle, his understanding of Jesus, and his followers.

The Old/New Commandment

Introduction

- John writes to:
 1. Reassure faithful believers.
 2. Dispel their doubts.
 3. Encourage ongoing faithfulness to their Savior.

The Old/New Commandment

Introduction

- One of John's personal trademark points is that we have to love one another.
- This is what we will focus on today.
- Let's read **1 John 2:7-11**

The Old/New Commandment

Introduction

Soundbite:

Love one another. It really is that simple.

1 John 2:7-8

Both Old and New

1 John 2:7-8 Both Old and New

- When John encourages love for one another, he is referring back to Jesus's “new commandment.”
- For John's hearers, it was a commandment they had from the beginning – from back when they first heard the gospel.

1 John 2:7-8 Both Old and New

- John 13:34-35 (ESV)

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

1 John 2:7-8 Both Old and New

- So the commandment is both old and new.
- It is also not unique to that one passage in John's Gospel.
- The thought that Christians need to love one another permeates the entire New Testament.

1 John 2:7-8 Both Old and New

- John 15:12-14 (ESV)

¹² This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you.

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- Love is self-sacrificial.

1 John 2:7-8 Both Old and New

- **Romans 12:9-10** (ESV)

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

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- **Romans 12:9-10** (ESV)

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

- Genuine love recognizes the Bible's take on good and evil.
- This is directly related to the picture of light and darkness that John uses in this passage.

1 John 2:7-8 Both Old and New

- **Romans 13:8-9** (ESV)

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

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- Love encompasses all the other commandments that relate to other people.

1 John 2:7-8 Both Old and New

- Galatians 5:13 (ESV)

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

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For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

- Christ frees us from bondage to sin and self, enabling and empowering us to love.
- Love serves others more than ourselves.

1 John 2:7-8 Both Old and New

- Galatians 5:22-24 (ESV)

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

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- Love is a fruit, which ripens in us as we give the Holy Spirit the freedom to transform us by his power.
- This helps explain why love can be commanded.

1 John 2:7-8 Both Old and New

- 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 (ESV)

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹² and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³ so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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- Again, love is supernaturally grown in us by God himself.
- It cannot be separated from holiness.

1 John 2:7-8 Both Old and New

- 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 (ESV)

⁹ Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another,¹⁰ for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more.

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- Love always has the potential to grow.

1 John 2:7-8 Both Old and New

- 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4 (ESV)

³ We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

⁴ Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.

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- Love always has the potential to grow – even in the midst of difficulties.

1 John 2:7-8 Both Old and New

- Hebrews 10:23-25 (ESV)

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

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- Love remains connected to sound doctrine, good works and fellowship with other believers.

1 John 2:7-8 Both Old and New

- 1 Peter 1:22-23 (ESV)

²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.

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- Love is pure – and pure love from a pure heart grows out of believing the gospel.

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- 1 Peter 4:7-8 (ESV)

⁷The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

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- Love grows as we look forward to the coming of Jesus – and in the meantime covers a multitude of sins.

1 John 2:7-8 Both Old and New

- Let's also take note of these verses here in **1 John**.
 - 1 John 3:11
 - 1 John 3:23
 - 1 John 4:7
 - 1 John 4:10-12

1 John 2:9-11 Light and Love

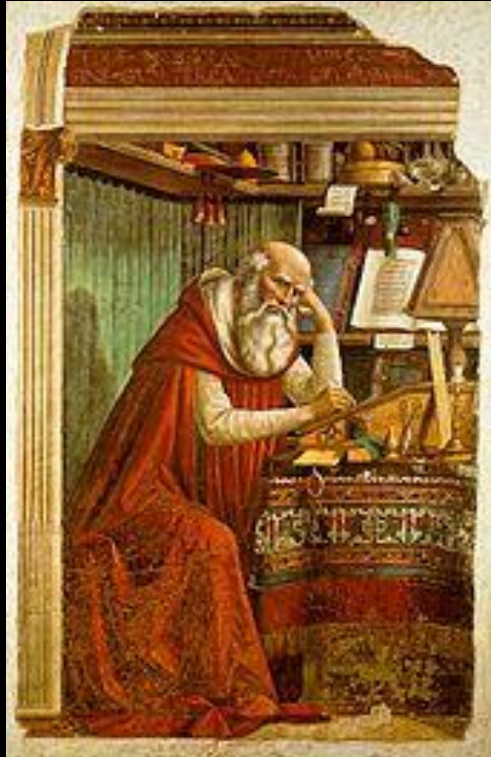
1 John 2:9-11 Light and Love

- Throughout this letter John is responding to a situation in the churches of Asia.
- Certain people had formed splinter groups by rejecting the elderly apostle, his understanding of Jesus, and his followers.

1 John 2:9-11 Light and Love

- John repeatedly insists that the splinter groups are supernaturally deceived.
- Their lack of love for believers is evidence of this deception.
- There is a lot at stake in our capacity to love one another – much more than we may realize.

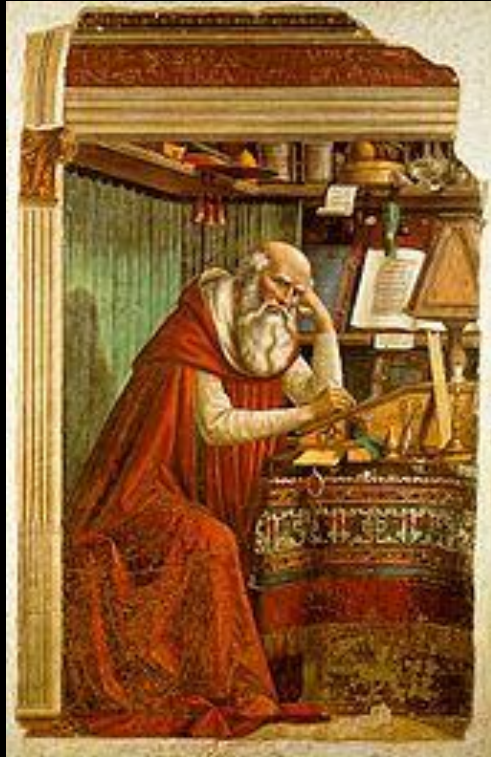
1 John 2:9-11 Light and Love



Jerome (347 – 420)
translated the Bible
into Latin.

- Jerome, in one of his commentaries, tells a story of “blessed John the Evangelist.”
- In Ephesus, when John was very old, his disciples would carry him into their meetings.
- His entire message repeatedly consisted of nothing but the words,
- “Little children, love one another.”

1 John 2:9-11 Light and Love



Jerome (347 – 420)
translated the Bible
into Latin.

- Jerome, in one of his commentaries, tells a story of “blessed John the Evangelist.”
- Eventually his disciples asked him, “Master, why do you always say this?”
- He replied, “Because it is the Lord’s command, and if this only is done, it is enough.”

1 John 2:9-11 Light and Love

Soundbite:

Love one another. It really is that simple.

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- Love is self-sacrificial.
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- Love thrives in consistent fellowship with other believers.

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- Love grows as a result of a supernatural work of God in us.
- Love is firmly connected to sound biblical teaching.
- Love thrives in consistent fellowship with other believers.
- Love always has the potential to grow.
- Love gives us evidence that we do not walk in darkness.

The Old/New Commandment

Conclusions

- Final passage – very popular at weddings:
- **1 Corinthians 13**
- When Paul first wrote it, he wasn't speaking to husbands and wives, though it certainly applies in marriage.
- He was speaking to a church and referring to their congregational life.