

IN THE LIGHT OR IN THE DARKNESS?

1 John 2:7-11 Jeff Schreve

*The one who says he is in the light and yet hates his brother
is in the darkness until now. 1 John 2:9*

Are you walking in the light of love or in the darkness of hate?

1. Love is an old commandment in time.

A. It is a key part of the Mosaic Law.

*You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the
sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as
yourself; I am the LORD. Leviticus 19:18*

B. It is the impetus for keeping the Ten Commandments.

*"On these two commandments depend the whole Law and
the Prophets." Matthew 22:40*

2. Love is a new commandment in freshness.

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another,
even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."*

John 13:34

A. Jesus is the embodiment of love.

*But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to
those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for
those who mistreat you. Luke 6:27-28*

B. True Christianity is evidenced by love.

*"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you
have love for one another." John 13:35*

*... the love of God has been poured out within our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Romans 5:5*

C. True love tells people the truth.

*Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the
kisses of an enemy. Proverbs 27:6*

3. Love does not venture into the darkness of hate.

The one who says he is in the light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. The one who loves his brother abides in the light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes. 1 John 2:9-11

A. You cannot love the Lord if you hate your brother.

If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. 1 John 4:20

B. You cannot walk with Jesus if you hold onto hurt/hate.

C. You can search your heart and get things right.

And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:32

When we focus on our forgiveness, we can love and forgive.