

KNOWING THAT WE KNOW GOD Pt. 2: The Love Test (1 John 2:7-11)

Nov. 23, 2025

TEXT: 1 John 2:7-11

MAIN IDEA—Living a life of love towards others is a major way of knowing that we have a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. **MEMORY VERSE [1 Pet. 4:8]**

THE LAW OF LOVE (1 John 2:7-8)—John moves from encouraging believers about keeping God's commandments to speaking about the specific command to love one another. Even though John only mentions love once in these verses we know this is what he is referring to based on the mention of a “new commandment” which Jesus gave recorded in John 13. **2 Jn. 5-6**

Duet.6:5-7; Lev.19:18

The Old Commandment of Love (V7)—The commandment to love is old in that it existed and was already known before Christ came. The typical Jewish man or woman interpreted “love your neighbor” to mean love your fellow Jew or anyone you come in contact with.

The New Commandment of Love (V8)—Though the command to love was old in familiarity to the common Jewish person of John’s day, its newness is seen in the emphasis Jesus placed on it in his teachings and in his example as he demonstrated it with his life and ultimate sacrifice.

*Jesus’ love was new in the **extent** to which it reached (**Mt. 5:43-48**).

*Jesus’ love was new in the **length** it went to redeem sinners from hell and bring them to God (**Rom.5:7-8; John 3:16-17**).

*Jesus' love was new in the **degree** to which it's experienced (**V8**).

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Jn.13:34-35

THE LIFE OF LOVE (1 John 2:9-11)—John has written about the new command to love. Now he applies the love test by giving three different examples (2 negative and 1 positive). By contrasting light and darkness in these examples we learn about the light that shines from the life in which Christ's love truly dwells versus the darkness that dominates the life without Christ's love.

Profession without love (V9)—John says if a person claims to be a Christian but practices hating his brother, he's deceived and still in the darkness. **1 Cor. 13:1-2**

Love Flowing from Light (V10)—This person proves he is living in the light of God's love by actually loving others as a way of life. **1 Cor.13:4-8; Rom.13:8-10**

Hate causing more darkness (V11)—Once again John shows the opposite of a Christian and negative consequences of holding on to hatred.

1-Seek forgiveness where needed (Mt.5:23-24).

2-Practice forgiveness (Eph.4:32).

3-Love sacrificially (1 Jn.3:17-19)

Homework-Read The Good Samaritan (Lk.10:25-27).

Blessing—2 Cor.13:14