# Letter of Faith & Assurance #8

**1 John 2:7-11**

 “The Badge of Love”

Introduction: John is referring here in 1 John to a new commandment. John does not specifically state the new commandment, knowing that the readers know his previous writings where the new commandment is specifically recorded. (John 13:34) (John 15:12, 14, 17). We should now know what the new commandment is....that we LOVE one another.

Jesus is only hours from Calvary as He gives this commandment to His disciples. Right as He is at the shadow of the cross He says, “I have a new commandment.” One of the last things He said before He goes to finish His work was, get this new commandment.

**I. This is His commandment.**

 A. It was not a suggestion.

 1. He is commanding His disciples to love.

 2. It is something to be taken seriously.

 B. It was already stated in the Old Testament.

 1. Love the stranger within thy gates.

Exodus 22:21 *“Thou shalt neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.”*

 a. God’s leading gave them the experience of being strangers in the land of Egypt.

 b. This was a reminder of how it felt, a motivation to treat strangers right.

 2. Love your neighbor as thyself. Leviticus 19:18

 C. This is an old commandment.

 1. It was not something new to be commanded to love others.

 2. It does not appear to be new, because the command to love others appears in the Old Testament.

 3. If this new commandment is the old commandment, how then is it new?

**II. This word “NEW”**

 A. Greek translated word “new” means of that which is unaccustomed or not used to.

 1. Not new in time, as in recent, but new as to form or quality

 2. Of a different nature which is contrasted with the old.

 B. The old commandment, “love thy neighbor as thyself.”

 1. The Jews treated it as a guideline, and often twisted it’s meaning.

 a. “if I do not hate you, then I am showing love.”

 b. “I may not help you when you are down, but at least I did not kick you when you were down.”

 c. “If I don’t treat them too, bad I am showing love.”

 2. Jesus is going to introduce something totally different than that.

 a. Not new as in relation to time, but in relation to quality.

 b. When Jesus teaches His disciples to love one another it will be taken to a whole new level.

 c. It is to be practiced at the highest possible level.

 3. But the new commandment is “Love one another as I have loved you”

 a. You have heard “love your neighbor and hate your enemy.”

 b. This is something that the world has never seen before.

 c. He is saying “love them that hate you, do good to them which despitefully use you.”

Transition: This is a difficult thing to consider. Why should I love people? It is clear that our society as a whole does not care about us or God. The truth of the matter is that people don’t deserve our love. Just like we don’t deserve God’s love. That is not why we do it.

**III. As I have loved you.**

 A. This commandment is not for those who wish to be wimpy Christians.

 1. Is the extent of your Christian life going to church on Sunday?

 2. You may be busy and be a person in high demand.

 a. You may respectfully visit the house of God.

 b. You may respectfully listen to the preacher on occasion.

 B. If we know Him, then we are under the obligation to obey Him.

 1. The commandment is that ye love one another as He loved you.

 2. Obedience to this command is not an option.

 a. We are not free to make our definition of what love is.

 b. He made it for us...AS I LOVED YOU!

 C. So, How does He love us.

 1. He loved them to the end

John 13:1 *“ Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.”*

 2. This is referring to the failures of the disciples shortly after Jesus was taken.

 a. Judas was not the only one who failed.

 b. Peter denied Him three times.

 c. Peter James and John slept through the prayer meeting.

 d. They all forsook Him and fled.

 e. James and John were arguing with the others about who was the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven.

 2. He knew all of their miserable failings and frailties and He loved them to the end.

 a. That is how He loves you.

 b. You and I are to love them like that.

 3. This includes any person you meet, even that person sitting next to you.

 C. His love is manifest by serving.

 1. Jesus gets up and gets the basin of water and goes from disciple to disciple washing their feet.

 a. His love motivated Him to service.

 b. Humbling Himself to do something no one else wanted to.

 2. Who do you serve?

 a. Who is the beneficiary of your loving servitude?

 b. Who gets to see the love wherewith you are loved by your Savior Jesus?

 3. Just going to church is not showing love, this is not the service.

 a. The disciples did not love the Savior like He loved them.

 b. They did not love each other that way either.

 c. None of them got up washed His feet nor each other’s feet.

 4. Love serves and “seeketh not her own”

 a. His love was self sacrificing.

 b. He laid down His will, goals, and ambitions to manifest the love whereby He was loved by the Father.

**IV. Is there any movement in your life towards obedience to this command?**

 A. Remember that we know that we know we are saved if we obey His commands.

 1. The absence of hate is not the love He is commanding us to do.

 2. The absence of bitter hostility towards another is not the manifestation of this kind of love.

 a. The command is not that we abstain from wanting to kill.

 b. The command is that you show love like you received it from the Lord.

 B. It is obvious if you really obey this command if you make yourself available do the work of the gospel.

 1. You may count yourself a member of the church but not actively involved in the evangelistic work of the church.

 2. Where does the obedience to this command fit?

 C. Love always makes you vulnerable to hurt.

1. C.S. Lewis said “if you would protect yourself from the hurt and pain of loving someone, you must not love anything or anyone, not even a dog.”

a. Take your heart and wrap it up then wrap it up again and place it in a safe and lock it in a dark, cold, protected room

 1) You will find that while you are protecting yourself from hurt, your heart will not break.

 2) Your heart will become unbreakable.

 b. The only place to escape the vulnerability of love is Hell, because there is no love there.

 2. We are never released from this command.

 a. We have loved and been hurt in the past.

 b. Have you ever disappointed Him?

 1) We have disappointed Jesus and we still receive His love.

 2) At times we have been rebels and He still loves us.

 c. Are we not willing to do for another what He does for us?

 D. You are known as a disciple of Christ because you have love one toward another.

 1. It is not known that you are His disciple because you are in attendance at church.

 2. The badge of being His disciple is that you manifest love like you received it from Him.

 a. The badge is not that you did not go to the movies, but instead read your Bible.

 b. The badge is not that you were obedient in tithing last year

 c. The badge is not that you kept a bunch junk out of your life

 d. You are only known as His disciple if you manifest love one toward another (as He did).

 1) It is the badge of discipleship.

 2) It is the assurance that we know Him.

 3. We need to stop patting ourselves on the back because we are faithful every Sunday.

 a. We need to get our act together and engage in reaching people for Christ.

 b. We need to stop living in the past and start loving others again.

**Conclusion**:

Do we have the spirit of an ingrate? Do we really love other as Christ loved us?

Refraining from things is good, but Jesus said... “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if you have love one toward another.”

Being obedient in outward things are good, but that is not the badge of being His disciple.

**There is more to being Jesus disciple than just showing up at the house of God.....it is loving others as He loved you!**

- There are some who make no claim to be saved, but you can get saved today.

- There are some who claim to be saved...they say, they say, they say.....But the bend of their life has nothing to do with obedience to God’s Word.