The Book of 1 John Lesson 9

1 John 2:8-11

“The Test of the New Commandment”

Introduction: From the time the old commandment was given from Moses “love your neighbor as yourself” to the time of the Pharisees, the commandment had changed. The people were taught “love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” (Anybody who is like you is your neighbor and anybody who is not like you is your enemy.) Jesus takes us higher and says love your enemy.

I. Which thing is true in Him.

A. I have loved you with the same love which I have received of my Father.

1. Jesus lived what He is commanding.

a. Jesus is not asking us to do what He did not do Himself.

b. John watched Jesus practice this for over three years.

1) He traveled with Him and walked beside Him.

2) He saw Jesus manifest this new commandment over and over again.

2. This is the old commandment brought to a new level.

B. This new commandment is an unconditional love.

1. It is not based on performance.

a. Remember John 13:1 “He loved them until the end.”

b. They all forsook Him, Peter denied Him, Judas betrayed.

2. It is a sacrificial love.

a. “Better love hath no love than this than a man lay down his life for his friends.”

b. The highest manifestation of love one could imagine.

3. It is a forgiving love.

a. “Father forgive them for they know not what they do.”

b. The highest manifestation of love one could imagine.

II. And in You.

A. Not a rebuke to the believers.

1. The apostles practiced it and you are practicing it.

2. They are not failing at this commandment.

a. In the gospels, the apostles were selfish, but in Acts they have become selfless.

b. In the gospels, they do not know much of forgiveness, but in the book of Acts they are very forgiving.

c. In the gospels, they are an immature group of men, stumbling along, but in Acts they are men with great courage, boldness and power.

3. They are different because the Holy Spirit has empowered and enabled them.

a. Now they are doing what He did.

b. Their product in these churches is manifesting the same thing as He.

c. Jesus Christ is living out His life through these apostles.

B. If they are already doing it, why is John writing about it.

1. They are being taught by the Gnostics that you can know God without Jesus Christ.

a. The Gnostics did not properly believe about Jesus.

b. They believed that you could know God by the application of the intellect.

c. They did not manifest the love of the new commandment.

c. They did not manifest a pure and wholesome life.

2. John is saying to them, “Don’t listen to them,

a. You may only know Him through faith

b. You may only know that you know Him (have assurance in your heart) by obedience to His commandment.

III. Because the darkness is past and the true light now shineth.

A. He is teaching on a practical level.

1. He is not teaching that the day of darkness is passing and the world is getting better.

2. He is not saying that the manifestation of love will make the world full of light.

a. The world is not getting better.

b. The world is actually getting darker and darker.

c. There is rebellion against the moral standards of God.

1) Openness of Sodomy

2) Presence of Abortion

3. Things is this world will not get better until He who is Light comes and rules on this earth.

B. There are those that manifest what Jesus manifest.

1. A dark philosophy to live by

a. “love those who have the same beliefs as you, the same color skin as you, the same cultural background, the same opinion as you.”

b. “hate those who have a different philosophy, race or culture.”

2. The true light happens when...

a. We as believers do what the new commandment tells us to

1) love each other like Jesus loves us

2) be indiscriminate in our manifestation of love

1) not because of a certain philosophy

2) not because of a certain race

3) not because of a certain cultural background

4) but because God loves the world.

b. The light that is supposed to shine from our lives.

C. If the direction of our life is not in the way of manifesting this true light, we cannot have assurance that we are saved.

1. Even though we may know that we are saved.

2. You have no real Biblical basis for assurance if not obeying this.

a. the Biblical basis for assurance is not that you remember a profession or that you have a certificate of the time.

b. It is not that your mother or father tells you that got saved.

b. The Biblical basis for assurance is obedience to this command.

IV. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

A. What are the ramifications of light?

1. If you live in the darkness for a time you will appreciate the ramifications of having light.

2. It is never dark for he that loveth his brother.

a. This is what abide means.

b. He can see where he is going and have direction.

c. He can establish a purpose and move forward.

3. There is none occasion to stumble.

a. Not referring to being a stumbling block to others.

b. It is referring to the walk and the movement of a man’s life.

1) If you manifest brotherly love (obedience to this new commandment) then there is no need for you not to move on in your Christian life.

2) There is no need for you NOT to progress in your Christian life.

4. But if you are indifferent to the new

B. If you are indifferent to the new commandment, then there is occasion for stumbling.

1. You will not progress, but you will stumble.

2. Those who will not obey this commandment nor practice it.

C. What a joy to see a person grow spiritually.

1. See them move from immaturity to not being offended.

2. See their life change spiritually.

3. They can now see and they love their brother and nothing shall offend them.

a. See people begin to blossom in service.

b. See the Lord get a hold of hearts and see people’s knowledge of the Word of God grow

1) Then see their application of the Word of God grow.

2) See people progress in their Christian life.

D. How heartbreaking to see people who never grow.

1. Exposed to the same Word by which others grow.

a. The Word of God is a spiritual barometer.

b. By obedience to the Word of God that is given out some are growing.

c. But others exposed to the same ministry, are not growing.

1) Some people still excuse themselves from service.

2) Some easily offended by anything.

3) Some still indifferent about God’s truth.

2. Could be from poor teaching or leadership.

a. But others are continually growing.

b. Some maybe even older in the Lord still growing.

3. Could be that have not taken serious the new commandment.

a. There is an occasion to stumbling.

b. Maybe they have excused themselves from obedience.

Conclusion: If we obey this commandment, there is no reason not to grow and progress.

If we DO NOT obey it, then there will be great hindrance to our progress of growing as a Christian.

This is just as much a commandment as any of the other commandments in His Word.

There will problems progressing if there is disobedience to any commandments:

- NOT honoring the Lord’s Day

- having other “gods” before Him

- NOT telling the truth but being dishonest

Don’t be amazed when you come to church and find yourself not progressing in your Christian life, if you are not going to put this commandment into practice.

We need to stop being proud of ourselves for not hating, and begin to practice love the way Jesus has commanded us.

To take this commandment and put it aside hinders your progress in your spiritual life.