

Love Gains Everything 1 John 2:7-14

- **John and Me**

Love is one of the biggest themes in 1st John. This whole section centers around the theme of love and in fact I find it funny that this is the section I am doing today because before I was the mature adult you see today, I was a brat. I was one of those people that was like "Love, yuck." Like most 13 year olds who thought they knew everything, I believed love was a construct. And that it couldn't exist because it wasn't tangible. I'm pretty sure I was a hard kid to love anyway, So I don't remember my mom voicing that she loved me.

- **John and Love**

John was known as the apostle of love, but like me he wasn't always like that. In fact in Mark 3:17, Jesus gave him and his brother the names Bon-ar-ges which literally means Sons of Thunder. At some point in time (Luke 9), John and his brother James wanted to call down fire from Heaven to destroy a village.

It has and always will be about love (V. 7-8)

- **From the beginning of this verse you can see how much love John has for the people he is writing to.**

V. 7- Dear friends can be derived from the Greek Agapetoi which means Beloved. He shows that He loves the people. We are not here to police each other.

- **These two verses initially seem to contradict each other.**

v.7- His opponents said ethical behavior didn't matter. John says this isn't new people. You've had it from the beginning.

v.8- They become new because Christ would come and fulfill the old commandments and he would show us love displayed in a richer, deeper manner. (Matt. 22:33-40) (Explain the story) Jesus says these Ten Commandments can be fulfilled by Love God & love your neighbor. The Ten Commandments aren't invalid but they are made complete by love.

"The commandment is new because for those who believe it. it makes possible a new and eternal life in which they are motivated by the grace of God to fulfill the law of self-sacrificing Christ love." Quote (You love tacos but you don't sacrifice your life for tacos) Christ is the true light which is why we can uphold ourselves to the new command. The true light is what will fend off darkness and we will be known as Christ followers by the reflection of the true light that shines in us.

I am not my brother's keeper...but really, you are. (v.9-11)

- v.9- **As a foundation, these next verses only apply if you are living in the light.**

John is saying that our relationship with God will result in a natural inclination to love. John uses such contrast because he wants to show that things cannot exist with each other. Light and Darkness

are incommensurable, as hatred and love, John is saying you cannot have both as a Christ follower. (There is no middle ground, be radical)

- v.9- **Our love for other Christians will be a measure of our walk with God.**

The word brother used comes from adelphos, the Greek also meaning brother but also member of the same religious community. We belong to a religious community, the body of Christ. That sounds so simple and why would I even bring that up? The ill of church separations

John has a point here where Christ centered love allows us to love others like Him. (examples of how that looks like) That command that he gives us in verse 8 enables us to love our brothers and sisters.

- v.10, 11- **If we lose love then we lose everything.**

Not only do we see where a person lies in their belief from how they treat their brother but we see the consequences of walking in the dark. Hatred consumes us, distracts us and deters us. (Hurdles) Love allows us to “see straight, think clearly, and make us balanced in our judgment.”

You can do all the right things, believe all the right truths, but if you do not love other Christians you miss out on the gains that God has for you. Listen, James, Galatians, and Romans talk about how we are to forgive one another, encourage one another, and carry each other’s burdens. Are we doing that?

Know Your Status (v.12-14)

- v.13, 14- John addresses three groups of people, dear children, fathers and young men twice and this really focuses more on their spiritual stage of development and not their age. (Children, Fathers and Young Men def.) He was addressing everyone, that this all applies to them. But we don’t let it define us.

Why does he do this? Why a shift in direction. Because we understand how to love as mature towards living in the light. He puts it all together so that way it could be read together.

So What?

- John is telling the people: Hey so you have a doctrinal test of faith, in which you believe Jesus Christ, that is where you find true repentance for sin and salvation for eternal life. Then you have a moral test in which by when you love God, you will obey his commands. But now, he is saying, there is a social test, and that is to love your brothers and sisters.
- John shows a small to big picture in how. What’s in our heart influences how we act which in turn affects how we treat people.

Now What?

- How we treat others will be a reflection of our relationship with God. Love is not a new command, when Christ died on the cross; he modeled what true love really looked like.

- What if we showed our brothers and sisters we loved them? (Orientation, Breaking the Cycle of Hurt, Deeper friendships with people)
- The big takeaway is that Love Gains Everything, because you experience God intimately, have relational richness with people and you gain a deeper love for your community

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