

In the second chapter of John's letter he continues his admonishment to churches regarding the importance of their walk with God. Claiming to know God and yet refusing to honor Him with a life of obedience simply does not work. A clear indication of an honest walk with God will be made known in how we conduct our lives.

1 John 2:3-17

The New Commandment

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

The Gnostics believed that the spiritual and physical were different and separate. According to their worldview the physical was evil, only the spiritual was good and sacred. Consequently this gave way to a life of lawlessness, since the physical was detached from what really mattered. To them their conduct didn't matter. However, as Christians we know our actions do matter and that while we are broken in our flesh, we are still made in the image of God and all will one day be redeemed.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

HOW might a distinction between the physical and spiritual realities of our lives create a false worldview?

HOW important is it that our lives and decisions match our profession of faith? **WHAT** problems arise when they don't?

WHERE do you struggle to walk consistently when it comes to knowing *who* you believe and obeying *what* He says?

1 John 2:3-17

The New Commandment

Read 1 John 2:3-17

OBSERVATION

How can we know if we've come to know Christ, according to vs. 3?

According to vs. 4, what would make someone a liar?

What must we do if we claim to abide in Christ (vs. 6)?

Does John say this is a new or old commandment (vs. 7-8)?

What connection does John make regarding loving our brother and walking in the light from vs. 9-11?

What repetition do you observe from vs. 12-14?

In vs. 15-17, what contrast does John give, and what is the outcome of each?

INTERPRETATION

What conviction and behavior is John stressing for those who claim to know Christ? Why do you think he makes such a strong connection between those who claim to follow Christ and the way they live?

What does John mean when he says that this commandment is not new (vs. 7), then later says it is (vs. 8)? Consider Leviticus 19:8 and Matthew 22:36-40 for insight.

What correlation does John make between loving Christ and loving our brothers? Why is this critical in understanding the "new commandment" John is conveying here? Consider John 15:13 and Romans 5:7-8.

Who is the "brother" John is speaking of here and how is he different from a random person or neighbor? Why is love for this particular brother critical in the establishment of the church?

How does the repetition observed in vs. 12-14 establish better clarity to whom John is writing? Why do you think he addresses little children, young men, fathers, etc.?

In vs. 15-17, what seems to be John's concern, as this section closes, and what connection can you make regarding his point here to that from what he's previously stated in the letter?

APPLICATION

Is it possible to know if we are saved? How might you explain your answer?

What does it look like to love the things God loves? How do we know what it is He loves, so that we can learn to love them too?