

KNOW "LIGHT, LOVE & LIFE"

A Sermonic Commentary of the Epistle of 1 John

© 2010 Dr. Edgar Pierce

Scripture King James Version unless otherwise noted.



4- Know: The Light of Brotherly Love 1 John 2:7-11; 3:11-15; 4:20-21

1 John 2:7-11 Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. 8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. 9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. 10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. 11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

1 John 3:11-15 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. 13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. 14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. 15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

1 John 4:20-21 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? 21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

One of the things that made outlining First John so difficult for me was that in various sections it seemed like it was repetitive. I have chosen to look at three sections of the books that reflect this feeling. We look at our text from three different passages together as we consider *Know: The Light of Brotherly Love*.

Brotherly love is one of the great themes of the Bible and is certainly well presented in 1 John.

There are two ways of being united, one is by being frozen together, and the other is by being melted together. What Christians need is to be united in brotherly love, and then they may expect to have power. Moody's Anecdotes, p. 53

I- From the Beginning:

Many of the teachings that are fleshed out in the New Testament are not

necessarily original to it. In two places in 1 John we find the expectation of brotherly love by God is something that has been around as long as mankind.

1 John 2:7-8 Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. 8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

1 John 3:11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

I asked myself, why. One reason is that we are all made in the image of God. When we love each other we love God in that sense. John says this is not a new

Touching Lives by "Exposing the Word" of God

The pulpit ministry of Dr. Edgar Pierce

KNOW "LIGHT, LOVE & LIFE"

A Sermonic Commentary of the Epistle of 1 John

© 2010 Dr. Edgar Pierce

Scripture King James Version unless otherwise noted.



commandment but an old one, one as old as mankind itself. Jesus said in *John 13:34* ***A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.***

Concerning the seemingly contradiction of old then new *Robertson's Word Pictures* says, "*To walk as Christ walked is to put in practice the old commandment and so make it new (ever new and fresh), as love is as old as man and fresh in every new experience.*"

II- Love is Light - Hate is Darkness:

The contrast between light and darkness is played out here to illustrate the need of brotherly love.

1 John 2:9 ***He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.***

The love of the brethren is necessary to claim that we are in the light. If we say we are walking in the light and hate another brother in Christ we are in fact in darkness. *1 John 2:11* ***But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.***

Now notice the stark contrast when someone is walking in the light. *1 John 2:10* ***He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.***

Understanding that we are talking about spiritual stumbling here but I find it ironic what the law said about physical and the parallels to the spiritual. *Leviticus 19:14* ***Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumblingblock before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I am the LORD.***

Don't pretend to be one way when someone can hear you or see you but when they are away be another. Don't as my momma used to say, "act like you could eat them up to their face and then act different when they leave."

III- Not as Cain:

Next we have a negative example to reinforce the need for brotherly love. The example of Cain.

1 John 3:12 ***Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. 13*** *Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.*

This story is found in Genesis. *Genesis 4:8* ***And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.***

When someone has hate or allows evil to take up residence in their heart then they have problems with anyone and everyone trying to live godly lives. The way we attack and scorch the earth around people tells more about the attacker than the one being accused many times.

IV- Sign of Life:

A sign of being born from above is that we love those made in the image of the Father. John says that we can know we have eternal life by the love we have for the brethren.

1 John 3:14 ***We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.***

KNOW "LIGHT, LOVE & LIFE"

A Sermonic Commentary of the Epistle of 1 John

© 2010 Dr. Edgar Pierce

Scripture King James Version unless otherwise noted.



A story about a professor of psychology illustrates the difference between showing love and simply talking about it. The man had no children of his own, but whenever he saw a neighbor scolding a child for some wrongdoing he would say, 'You should love your boy, not punish him.' One hot summer day the professor was repairing his concrete driveway. Tired after several hours of work, he laid down the trowel, wiped the perspiration from his forehead, and started toward the house. Just then, out of the corner of his eye, he saw a mischievous little boy putting his foot in the fresh cement. He rushed over, grabbed him, and was about to spank him when a neighbor leaned out his window and said, 'Watch it, Professor! Don't you remember? You must love the child!' At this, he yelled back furiously, 'I do love him in the abstract, but not in the concrete!' H.G.B., *Our Daily Bread*, February 2

I have always said it is easier to love someone from some foreign country than it is the neighbor across the back fence. We do not have to put up those a world away but have to live with those next door.

The next verse gives some strong words. ***1 John 3:15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.***

Jesus acquaints hate and murder much like He did looking in lust and adultery. He is saying that if we murder someone in our heart we are guilty of murder. If we wish someone death and hate them this much we are in fact committing murder in our heart.

V- Sign of Loving God:

The last place we look at this them of brotherly love that runs as a thread through 1 John is in ***1 John 4:20-21 If a man say, I***

love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? 21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

Again we are reminded of loving the image of God is in fact loving God. If we cannot love those we see it is stated that we cannot love God whom we cannot see.

There is a story I wish to close with about a ragdoll.

There is a natural, logical kind of loving that loves lovely things and lovely people. That's logical. But there is another kind of loving that doesn't look for value in what it loves, but that **CREATES** value in what it loves. Like Rosemary's rag doll.

When Rosemary, my youngest child, was three, she was given a little rag doll, which quickly became an inseparable companion. She had other toys that were intrinsically far more valuable, but none that she loved like she loved the rag doll.

Soon the rag doll became more and more rag and less and less doll. It also became more and more dirty. If you tried to clean the rag doll, it became more ragged still. And if you didn't try to clean the rag doll, it became dirtier still. The sensible thing to do was to trash the rag doll. But that was unthinkable for anyone who loved my child. If you loved Rosemary, you loved the rag doll, it was part of the package.

'If anyone says 'I love God' yet hates his brother or sister, he is a liar,' (1 John 4:20) 'love me, love my rag dolls,' says God, 'including the one you see when you look in the mirror. This is the first and greatest commandment.' - Ian Pitt-Watson

KNOW “LIGHT, LOVE & LIFE”

A Sermonic Commentary of the Epistle of 1 John

© 2010 Dr. Edgar Pierce

Scripture King James Version unless otherwise noted.



Touching Lives by "Exposing the Word" of God

The pulpit ministry of Dr. Edgar Pierce