

Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment—to love one another—is the same message you heard before. Yet it is also new. Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, and you also are living it. For the darkness is disappearing, and the true light is already shining. If anyone claims, “I am living in the light,” but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is still living in darkness. Anyone who loves another brother or sister is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble. But anyone who hates another brother or sister is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness.
1 John 2:7-11 (NLT)

Love Others

Have you heard from me? Are you listening attentively to me? Have you heard the message that I want to convey to you? Do you understand how I want you to think and speak and act in the darkness of this world? Do you know how I want to use you to break down darkness in this world? Do you know how to stand out and shine brightly for me in the darkness of this world? Before you attempt to answer any of my questions, there is something that I want you to know. What is that? **You can see the darkness of this world by the way people treat each other.** How so? **You can gauge the darkness of the world by the lack of love and the amount of hate you can see in it. So now, go ahead, answer the questions that I have asked of you.** It is my desire to hear from you. I am listening attentively to you. I do believe I have heard the message you want to convey to me. I think I do know how you want me to think and speak and act in the darkness of this world. **How so?** You want me to follow your example. You want me to think and speak and act like you. You want me to become like you. You want me to love like you loved. You want me to serve like you served. You want me to give like you gave. If I think and speak and act like you, I will shine like a star in the universe. By loving and serving and giving, I will stand out, I will be different, I will be countercultural. People will be drawn to you, because they will see your life being lived out in and through me. **Is that what you want?** Yes, that is what I want. That is the desire of my heart. I want to bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. I want people to be drawn to you. I want people to one day come to live forever in heaven with you. That is true fruit, that will last for eternity. **Yes, it will.** Now, I know that this can only be accomplished by becoming like you, following your example, and doing what you did. **That is true.** That is what I will do, I will love others, with your help. **That will be very good. You will have my help.** Thank you, Lord.

Lord, I will listen attentively to you. I will hear what you have to say to me. I will listen to your message. I will follow your example. Help me to love others just as you have loved me. Help me to love others and break down the unloving darkness in the world. Amen

Promises *True Light Is Already Shining*

Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

NIV 1 John 2:7-11

Promises *True Light Is Already Shining*

Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment—to love one another—is the same message you heard before. Yet it is also new. Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, and you also are living it. For the darkness is disappearing, and the true light is already shining. If anyone claims, "I am living in the light," but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is still living in darkness. Anyone who loves another brother or sister is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble. But anyone who hates another brother or sister is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness.

NLT 1 John 2:7-11

Promises *True Light Is Already Shining*

Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word that you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new commandment that is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. Whoever says, "I am in the light," while hating a brother or sister, is still in the darkness. Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light, and in such a person there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates another believer is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and does not know the way to go, because the darkness has brought on blindness.

NRSV 1 John 2:7-11

Promises *True Light Is Already Shining*

Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the message which you have heard [the doctrine of salvation through Christ]. Yet I am writing you a new commandment, which is true (is realized) in Him and in you, because the darkness (moral blindness) is clearing away and the true Light (the revelation of God in Christ) is already shining. Whoever says he is in the Light and [yet] hates his brother [Christian, born-again child of God his Father] is in darkness even until now. Whoever loves his brother [believer] abides (lives) in the Light, and in It or in him there is no occasion for stumbling or cause for error or sin. But he who hates (detests, despises) his brother [in Christ] is in darkness and walking (living) in the dark; he is straying *and* does not perceive or know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

AMP 1 John 2:7-11

Promises *True Light Is Already Shining*

Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard. On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining. The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

NASB 1 John 2:7-11

Promises *True Light Is Already Shining*

Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

ESV 1 John 2:7-11

Promises *True Light Is Already Shining*

Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

NKJV 1 John 2:7-11

Promises *True Light Is Already Blazing*

My dear friends, I'm not writing anything new here. This is the oldest commandment in the book, and you've known it from day one. It's always been implicit in the Message you've heard. On the other hand, perhaps it is new, freshly minted as it is in both Christ and you—the darkness on its way out and the True Light already blazing! Anyone who claims to live in God's light and hates a brother or sister is still in the dark. It's the person who loves brother and sister who dwells in God's light and doesn't block the light from others. But whoever hates is still in the dark, stumbles around in the dark, doesn't know which end is up, blinded by the darkness.

MSG 1 John 2:7-11

Promises *New Light Of Life In Christ Shines In*

Dear brothers, I am not writing out a new rule for you to obey, for it is an old one you have always had, right from the start. You have heard it all before. Yet it is always new, and works for you just as it did for Christ; and as we obey this commandment, *to love one another*, the darkness in our lives disappears and the new light of life in Christ shines in. Anyone who says he is walking in the light of Christ but dislikes his fellow man is still in darkness. But whoever loves his fellow man is "walking in the light" and can see his way without stumbling around in darkness and sin. For he who dislikes his brother is wandering in spiritual darkness and doesn't know where he is going, for the darkness has made him blind so that he cannot see the way.

TLB 1 John 2:7-11

Promises *True Light Is Already Shining*

My dear friends, I am not writing a new command to you but an old command you have had from the beginning. It is the teaching you have already heard. But also I am writing a new command to you, and you can see its truth in Jesus and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. Anyone who says, "I am in the light," but hates a brother or sister, is still in the darkness. Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light and will not cause anyone to stumble in his faith. But whoever hates a brother or sister is in darkness, lives in darkness, and does not know where to go, because the darkness has made that person blind.

NCV 1 John 2:7-11

True Light Is Already Shining

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Promises – 1 John 2:7-11

In Context: Read 1 John 2

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I will listen attentively to you. I will hear what you have to say to me. I will listen to your message. I will follow your example. Help me to love others just as you have loved me. Help me to love others and break down the unloving darkness in the world. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How are you making sure to listen attentively so that you can hear from the Lord?

What time and place have you set aside so you can be free from distractions and hear from the Lord?

How has the Lord clearly communicated the message that He wants you to love others?

How is loving others counter cultural in the unloving darkness of the world today?

How has Jesus Christ given you a clear example to follow of how to love others?

What steps have you taken to show love to even seemingly unlovable people?

How is the love of Jesus Christ shining through you breaking down darkness in the world?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Make every effort to follow Christ's example to love others, even those who seem unlovable.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will help you to love others to break down unloving darkness in the world.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you are extending love to seemingly unlovable people.

Close With Prayer:

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you love others and break down darkness in the world.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will love others and break down darkness in the world.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I love others and break down darkness in the world?
