

I. A life of love is an old commandment (v. 7)

A. John is an example of a life of love

B. A life of love has always been God's plan

"Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself." (Leviticus 19:18)

C. We are reminded of what we know

II. A life of love is a new commandment (v. 8)

A. It is new in the example of Jesus

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34)

B. It is new in the example of followers of Jesus

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love..." (Galatians 5:22)

"And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us." (Romans 5:5)

C. It is new in the defeat of the darkness

D. It is new in the presence of Jesus

"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ." (2 Corinthians 4:6)

III. A life of love must be lived out (v. 9-11)

A. Hatred toward God's family proves we are living in darkness

1. A false profession of love is hypocritical

2. Hatred toward God's family reveals we are lost

3. Hatred toward God's family reveals we are blind

B. Love toward God's family proves we are living in the light

1. Love towards God's family reveals our true identity

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:35)

2. Love towards God's family helps others from stumbling

3. Love towards God's family is following the example of Jesus

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." (John 15:12)