**9-13-15**

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**Authentic: part 4**

**An Authentic Believer: Loves His Brother**

**1 John 2:7-11**

***7****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.*

***8****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.*

***9****Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness.*

***10****Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.*

***11****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.*

**Background:**

John was an expert on ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ relationships.

John was the disciple that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

John calls us to do something that we can only do through the power of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. **Jesus’ Command to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is Both Old and New**

**1 John 2:7-8**

***7****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.*

***8****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.*

**John 13:34**

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.*

Jesus summarizes the old commandments in a new way, giving them a new commandment which encompasses the old.

John Stott comments on this passage in his book *The Epistles of John* and suggests four ways this commandment became new:

1. It was new in its emphasis.
2. It was new in its quality.
3. It was new in its extent.
4. It was new in the disciples’ continuing understanding of it.
5. **Healthy Relationships are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to our Walk as Christians**

**1 John 2:9-10**

***9****Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness.*

***10****Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.*

**Romans 5:5**

***5****and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

**Galatians 5:22-23**

***22****But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,****23****gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

1. **A Relationship with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is Central to Practicing Biblical Love Towards Each Other**

**1 John 2:8**

***8****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.*

1. John says the new commandment is “true in Him…”. Jesus is our perfect example of what love should look like.
2. John also says it is “…true in you” as well. This is only possible when we abide in Him.

1 John 4:7-8

***7****Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.*

***8****Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

**What Does This Mean In My Life?**

1. **Healthy relationships are not a “nice to have”, they are a “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”**

**John 13:35 (ESV)**
*35  By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another*.

1. **Loving each other is not a suggestion, it is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**1 John 5:3 (ESV)**
*3  For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.*

1. **As we conform more to the image of Christ, His love \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_.**

**2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)**
*18  And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*