

First John

“An Old New Commandment”

Text: [1 John 2:7-11](#)

Introduction:

Puns, Paradoxes, Puzzles are all fascinating. Every now and then I will make up a word search or some other kind of puzzle for the young people. It *seems* to help with the goal of getting them to do their lessons. A paradox is not a couple of quackers (pair of ducks). That would be a pun or play on words. A paradox is something that is true even though it cannot be true! That is apparently what John does in [1 John 2:3-6](#)

1. An Old Commandment

It was something Jesus said “at the beginning” so it was old.

[John 13:34](#)

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

[1 John 3:11](#)

For this is the message that you heard from the **beginning**, that we should love one another

[1 John 4:21](#)

This commandment we have from **Him**: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

[2 John 5](#)

I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a **new** commandment to you, but that which we have had from the **beginning**: that we love one another.

2. A New Commandment

How Can It Be Old and New at the same time? Maybe the same is true in these:

[Hebrews 5:12-14](#)

For though by this time you ought to be **teachers**, you need someone to **teach** you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need **milk** and not **solid food**. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a **babe**. But solid food belongs to those who are of **full age**, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

[2 Corinthians 5:17](#)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new** creation; **old** things have passed away; behold, all things have become **new**.

[John 3:3-7](#)

Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born **again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be **born** when he is **old**? Can he enter a **second** time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of **water** and the **Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is **flesh**, and that which is born of the Spirit is **spirit**. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born **again**.’”

3. A Commandment

Isn’t “Commandment” a bit strong, couldn’t we make them “The 10 Suggestions?”

[John 13:34](#)

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

“In Him”

[1 John 1:5](#)

God is **light** and in Him is no **darkness** at all.

The Difference Between Light And Dark

[1 John 1:6](#)

If we say that we have **fellowship** with Him, and walk in **darkness**, we **lie** and do not practice the **truth**.

4. The Commandment

Love: The Difference Between Saying and Being

[John 13:35](#)

...you are My disciples, **if** you have love for one another.”

[John 21:17](#)

He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you **love** Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you **love** Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I **love** You.” Jesus said to him, “**Feed My sheep**.”

[1 Corinthians 13:4-8](#)

Love suffers long and is kind; **love** does not envy; **love** does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. **Love** never fails.

Conclusion

Are you in Christ? Are you walking in the Light? Are you really obedient? These are all the same question. If you are in Christ, you are walking in the light and you are obedient to God. Love has a big part of knowing the answer to that. Love is not necessarily a good feeling toward someone else. Love is certainly a good desire for someone else. It may be your enemy. Jesus said love your enemy. It may be your neighbor. Jesus said, love your neighbor. It may be your brother or sister. Jesus said, love your brother or sister.

How do we do that? We turn the other cheek, we give when asked, and we go the second mile.

[Matthew 5:42](#)

Love is a new commandment because the world doesn’t get it. The world doesn’t see this kind of love except when God shows it to them. Are you willing to let God use you to demonstrate it? Make a decision now!

If you have not obeyed the gospel, God demonstrated his love for you, in that while you were still a sinner Christ died for you. Give your life back to him by obeying the gospel. Repent of your sins and be baptized into Christ.

If you need prayers of the church, take this opportunity while we sing.