

That You May Know – 1 John 2:7-14

*“We pursue being a disciple making family: surrendered to Jesus, transformed by the gospel, and **saturated in His word.**”*

John points out in this text that what we say should line up with what we do. John is pointing out that the bedrock result of surrendering to the rescue of Jesus and being saved is to love. This love should overflow from the love shown to us by Jesus. There is the command for believers to love. If we don't do this we are lying and walking in the dark. If we are a Christ follower our hearts desire should be to love as we have been loved. We won't always get this right, but it is our desire and we grow more and more in this area. Let's look at a few questions from this text.

Discussion Questions* -- *do not feel the pressure to cover them all

1. John begins by pointing out that to love is a command of God. We can all agree that to love is a good and right thing. We can even see the need to love. However, our struggle tends to arise when we try to define what this love looks like. What is the standard for our love? What is the essence and example of love poured out in Scripture? How do we lean into this love or tend to justify leaning away from this love in our daily lives?
2. There is the fact that “darkness is passing away and the true light is shining.” We know that complete darkness has not been taken away in our world but as believers come to faith and live in the world, we see the light of Christ spread. There is more and more light shining in the world. What areas in your sphere of influence would you like to see more light spread and shining. (i.e. school, family, work, neighborhood, etc). In what ways may you pray that you, family, friends, or your group be that influence? What are you doing to help others be intentional about spreading the light?
3. There is a clear delineation made between one who walks in light and one who walks in darkness. The one who walks in darkness does not love his brother, causes others to stumble, is lost in darkness, and has his eyes blinded. He is a liar. Clearly this is referring to a non-believer who may say they are in the light but not. It can also refer to believers who still have areas in their life where they may say “they are in the light” but do not love. As believers we can justify why we don't love. Even in the church where we should be a body of believers that reflect Christ's love, we don't always do this. It may be around secondary issues, personality, programs, or even direction. How might a church work through the differences and still love one another? What are the ramifications if a church doesn't love? What does the Bible say about working through differences in love? How might one be blinded thinking they are walking in the light, yet really walking in darkness?

4. Jesus Christ is the standard of love for Christians. The reality is that some people are just easier to love than others. Jesus doesn't just call us to love the easy ones. He even commands and exemplifies that we should love our enemies as well. What does this look like in the life of a church? What do we do to circumvent this command?
5. Pray for the faith gathering at Heritage, in Escambia County, Florida, the nation, and the world.