

Measuring Our Maturity, Part 2 (1 John 2:7-11) – Loving My Brother

⁷ 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ He who says he is in the light, and **hates his brother**, is in darkness until now. ¹⁰ He who **loves his brother** abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. ¹¹ 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.

1. This Measure Is an _____ Command

⁷ 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.

- a. **OLD:** *I am not writing a new command to you*
- b. **WHEN:** *But an old command which you had from [the] beginning*
- c. **HOW:** *The old command is the word which you heard...*

- **One of two primary Old Testament “love” commands**

Lev. 19:18 ‘You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: *I am the LORD.*”

- **Jesus summarized the entire OT with two commands**

Matt. 22:35-40 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question*, testing Him, and saying, ³⁶ “Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” ³⁸ “This is **the first** and great commandment. ³⁹ “And **the second** is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ “**On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.**”

2. This Measure Is a _____ Command

⁸ 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.

- a. **NEW:** *A new command I am writing to you*

- **New: As exemplified by Jesus**

John 15:9-13 “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰ “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full. ¹² “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.

1 John 3:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

- **New: By being upgraded to a higher level**

John 13:34-35 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

- b. **TRUE:** *The command is true in him and in you*

- **This love was shown to be true by Jesus (1 John 3:16)**
- **This love is shown to be true through Jesus’ followers**

- c. **EFFECTIVE:** *We can see God’s truth in action – it works!*

- **The darkness is passing away**
- **The true light is already shining**

3. This Measure Is _____ Based on What One _____

⁹ He who says he is (~) in the light, and hates (~) his brother, is (~) in darkness until now.

- a. **CLAIM:** *The one saying (repeating theme) “I am in (~) the light”*
- b. **ACTION:** *And is hating his brother (meaning of **hating** vs **loving**)*
- c. **REALITY:** *He is being in the darkness until now*

4. This Measure _____ Based on What One Is _____

¹⁰ He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. ¹¹ 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.

- a. **Measure #1 (Positive):** *The one loving his brother*

- **Truth #1a: CONSISTENCY** – *Is abiding / remaining in the light*
- **Truth #1b: SAFETY** – *And scandal in him not is being*

- b. **Measure #2 (Negative):** *The one hating his brother*

- **Truth #2a: PRESENCE** – *Is being in the darkness*
- **Truth #2b: GUIDANCE** – *Is walking in (by) the darkness*
- **Truth #2c: IGNORANCE** – *Lack of knowledge*
- **Truth #2d: BLINDNESS** – *Darkness has blinded his eyes*

Gal. 5:13-26 ¹³ For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”