

## **I John 2:7-11** **The Supremacy of Love**

### **Introduction:**

Love is the preeminent mark of a genuine believer. Love for God is the benchmark of one's relationship to Him and our love for the people of God. A lawyer came to Jesus asking a question to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all you soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 22:36-40) In the Scriptures the quality of love reigns supreme. Love has power. Love is backed by the authority of Christ.

### **I. The Law of Love – 7-8**

#### **A. The Social Test**

1. Do we love those who belong to the Christian family?
2. We must pass this test or we have no right to call ourselves a child of God.

#### **B. Old Commandment**

1. This commandment to love is not new – Lev. 19:18; Deut. 6:5

#### **C. New Commandment**

1. **New in Extent** – Christ died for believing Gentiles as well – v.2  
Jesus a friend of sinners – Mark 2:16; Matt. 28:19; Acts 1:8
2. **New in Depth** – The suffering of the Christ on the cross – Rom.  
5:6,10; Mk. 15:34
3. **New in Degree** – Love is truth – v.8; John 8:12; 11:9; 13:1; 15:12,13

### **II. The Life of Love – 9-11**

#### **A. Profession without love – “the one who says” – v.9, 11**

1. The first example is one claims to be in the light but hates his brother – (Gnostics) – The supremacy of love over spiritual gifts – Turn To: I Corinthians 13:1-13
2. The person shows that he abides in the light by loving his brother, he will not stumble – I Cor. 8:13; Matt. 18:3; Rev. 2:14 (Joel Beeke)
3. Greater darkness –v. 11 there are severe and lingering consequences of the person who fails to love his brother.
  - a. It demonstrates that person is in darkness; which means that person is not a Christian. (Acts 26:18; Col. 1:13; Eph. 6:12)
  - b. It demonstrates that the person not only is in darkness but that there is a continual walk in deeper darkness - (Present indicative “is walking in darkness” ( John 12:34-36; I John 3:15)

### **Conclusion:**

1. *An interesting irony that John who was called one of the “sons of thunder” now is the apostle that Jesus loved and called by many the apostle of love.*
2. *When love wanes.*
3. *What then should we do?*
  - 1.) Say, “I am sorry”
  - 2.) Forgive them. Eph. 4:32 (Francis Schaeffer)
  - 3.) Love is often practically demonstrated – The Parable of Good Samaritan. Love costs time, inconvenience and money – (I John 3:17-18)