

# 1 JOHN: THE COMMAND, AND JOHN'S NOT MESSING AROUND

Mike Howerton - Lead Pastor

*Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment—to love one another—is the same message you heard before. Yet it is also new. Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, and you also are living it. For the darkness is disappearing, and the true light is already shining. If anyone claims, “I am living in the light,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is still living in darkness. Anyone who loves a fellow believer is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble. But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness. 1 John 2:7-11 NLT*

## **This old/new command to \_\_\_\_\_**

*So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples. John 13:34-35 NLT*

*But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. Love your enemies! Do good to them. Luke 6:27,28,35a NLT*

*And this is his commandment: We must believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he commanded us. 1 John 3:23 NLT*

## **Love is \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_, even those with whom \_\_\_\_\_**

*Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us. 1 John 4:11-12 NLT*

*We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person? 1 John 3:16-17 NLT*

## Love is \_\_\_\_\_

*Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God. 1 John 3:18-19 NLT*

*God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. 1 John 4:16-18 NLT*

## Love drives \_\_\_\_\_

### Questions for Groups //

- *Can you think of a favorite song with LOVE in the title. What is it?*
- *How is your love proving to the world that you are a disciple of Jesus?*
- *Do you have a different definition of love - if so, what is it?*
- *What do you find the most challenging about loving others?*
- *What does "love in practical action" look like to you?*
- *How has love been able to drive away fear in your life?*
- *Pray together!*