

“Looking & Living Like Love in the Light”

1 John 2:7-11

September 29, 2013

Intro:

Real love vs. fake love...
are like authentic vs. counterfeit “currency.”

What makes them real or authentic???

Answer:

NOT how closely they “resemble” the authentic (for some can be so well copied that even an expert is tricked at times...).

But rather, the determining test comes down, not to how well something “looks,” but to whether or not it has come from the authenticating source.

So it is with \$100 bills from the U.S. Treasury...
and
with genuine Love than only the one true God can give!

T/S: with that said... as we begin today, let us remember:

The Bible was NOT written to "cheer on"
the human condition; but rather, in large part,
to CORRECT human corruption. - JDP

T/S: Case in point... let's quickly revisit where we've been...

The 5-Point Understanding of the Book of 1st John

(1) PASSION

Glorify God thru the Gospel of Jesus, the Christ.

(2) PRIORITIES

DEFINE the true Church.

DEFEND the true Church.

(3) PILLARS

TRUTH

LOVE

OBEDIENCE

(4) PURPOSES

Promote Koinonia; Prevent Sin; Protect Saints; Provide Assurance

(5) PROOFS

Walk

Obey

Patterns

Worship

Knowing

Review:

1:1-2 It's the Truth... we have first hand knowledge... We KNOW Jesus is the Light!

1:3-4 Truth in love promotes "koinonia" & the fulfillment of our/your eternal joy.

1:5,7,9 Hear & obey... walk in the Light... Confess, repent, believe & receive - Amen!

1:6,8,10 Stop the sinful pattern of denying sin... Don't miss the drama... Somebody's lying!

2:1-2 Christians hate their sin... that said, Jesus is both their Advocate & Propitiation.

2:3-6 Liars & Lovers talk alike... BUT a Christ-like OR Christ-less walk tells the truth.

2:7-11 **Today...** **7***Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. 8*At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the **darkness** is passing away and the true **light** is already shining. **9**Whoever says he is in the **light** and **hates** his brother is still in **darkness**. 10Whoever **loves** his brother abides in the **light**, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. **11**But whoever **hates** his brother is in the **darkness** and walks in the **darkness**, and does not know where he is going, because the **darkness** has blinded his eyes.

Exegesis (a.k.a. “unpacking”):

1. “*Beloved*” = continuing the loving, “pastoral,” truthful tone
2. Love & Light is not fickle, but rather foundational to the faith
3. “Old & New” refers to love’s foundation & fulfillment
4. More contrast: liars hate in the dark; lovers heal in the Light
5. “Lovers” walk in the Light; liars are lost & blind in “darkness”

KNOWING Jesus is Light, Love & the One
in whom we are to “abide,”
hear & obey what He declared & demonstrated...

“walk as Jesus walked” = love, truth, & faithful obedience

T/S: 1 John 2:7-11 continues the clarion call...

True Christians will “BE”
“Looking & Living Like Love in the Light”

with that said, let’s look at the Light:

His Word... His words... His walk.

T/S: Let’s begin with the beginning of Jesus’ ministry...

(see Mark 1:14-18)

Jesus Begins His Ministry

14Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, **15**and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

16Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. **17**And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” **18**And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

I. His Word

God's Word on His children's Walk

1. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 = all context
 2. Genesis 1:1 = all content
 3. John 3:16 = all inclusive
 4. John 14:6 = all exclusive
 5. Galatians 1:6-9 = all others are damned
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- **Psalms 111:10; Proverbs 9:10** = *Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...*
 - **Deuteronomy 6:5-9** = *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. [6](#)These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. [7](#)Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. [8](#)Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. [9](#)Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*
 - **Leviticus 19:18** = *“...love your neighbor as yourself...”*
 - **Galatians 5:22** = *But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*

“Fruit of the Spirit... our rays of His Light.” - JDP

II. His words

Christ's 1) Teachings, 2) Commands, 3) Prayers
that speak to the Christian's Walk

- 1). **His Teaching...** (cf. Matthew 22:37-40)

The Beatitudes

(Matthew 5:1-12)

3 *Blessed are the poor in spirit,*

4 *Blessed are those who mourn,*

5 *Blessed are the meek*

6 *Blessed... who hunger & thirst for righteousness*

7 *Blessed are the merciful*

8 *Blessed are the pure in heart,*

9 *Blessed are the peacemakers,*

10 *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of
righteousness,*

11 *Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute
you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because
of Me*

(Teaching thru PARABLES...)

1. ***Alert Servants*** - Mark 13:33-37
(“Get ready...Live ready!”)
2. ***Christian light*** - Matt. 5:14-16
(Shine! Warm & bright)
3. ***Banquet guests*** - Lk 14:15-24
(“Compel them to come...” = missional evangelists)
4. ***Good Samaritan*** - Lk 10:25-37
(Don’t “go” to church... BE the compassionate Church)
5. ***Grooms attendants*** - Mk 2:18ff
(Live like He’s with you!)
6. ***Hidden Treasure*** - Matt. 13:44
(Are you willing to sell out & go “all-in?”)
7. ***Lost (3X coin, lamb, son)*** - Luke 15
(Jesus loves the lost... Do you?)
8. ***Laborers in vineyard*** - Mt 20:1ff
(Be thankful for the grace you’ve received...)

9. ***Mustard seed*** - Mark 4:30-32
(Don't underestimate what God can do!)

10. ***Pearl of great price*** - Mt 13:45f
(Is Christ what you've been looking for?)

11. ***Pharisee/Taxman*** - Jn 18:9-14
(What's Jesus teaching us about sin & self-righteousness)

12. ***Sower/Soils*** - Matt. 13:3-23
(Not everything is as it appears...)

13. ***Talents*** - Matt. 25:14-30
(YOU will be held responsible...)

14. ***Ten Virgins*** - Matt. 25:1-13
(Don't procrastinate & get locked out!)

15. ***Two Debtors*** - Lk. 7:41-43
(How much have YOU been forgiven?)

16. ***Unmerciful servant*** - Mt 18:21ff
(Christians forgive 70X7 times...)

17. ***Vine & branches*** - Jn 15:1-17
(Dead branches get burnt up in the end...)

18. ***Wise steward*** - Lk 12:42-48
(How will the Master find you when He comes back?)

19. ***Wise servant*** - Matt 24:45-51
(Note the alternative consequences...)

20. ***Wise builder*** - Matt 7:24-27
(Note... the storm tells the story & Jesus is the Rock!)

• **2). His Commands...**

Jesus said: "if you love me you will obey what I command". **The fifty Commands of Christ are as follows...**

Repent

Follow Me

Rejoice

Shine

Honor God's Law

Be reconciled to the Lord

Do not commit adultery

Keep your word

Go the extra mile

Love your enemies

Pursue perfection

Practice Christian disciplines

Lay up treasures in heaven

Seek God's kingdom

Do not make unsubstantiated
judgments against others

Don't cast pearls before swine

Ask, Seek, & Knock

Do unto others...
as you would have done unto you

Choose the Narrow Way

Beware of false prophets & teachers

Pray for Christian laborers

Be shrewd as serpents...
and as innocent as doves

Fear God, not man

Hear & heed God's voice

Take the "yoke" of Christ upon you

Honor your parents

Beware of sin's "spreading-leaven"

Deny yourself

Love the "little ones"
(they are CHILDREN not CHOICES)

Go to those who offend you

Do not covet

Forgive

Honor marriage (especially your own)

Be a servant / doulos

Be a "house of prayer"

Ask/Pray in-faith

Reach out-to & bring-in the poor

Give to Caesar what is Caesar's

Love The Lord with ALL of who you are

Love your neighbor as yourself

Faithfully wait for Christ's return

Celebrate communion (remember Him)

Be born again (Amen!)

Obey everything Christ commanded

Watch & pray

Make & Baptize Disciples!

Receive God's power

Give graciously

1. Repent—Matthew 4:17—Humility
2. Follow Me—Matthew 4:19
3. Rejoice—Matthew 5:12
4. Let Your Light Shine—Matthew 5:16

5. Honor God's Law—Matthew 5:17–18
6. Be Reconciled—Matthew 5:24–25
7. Do Not Commit Adultery—Matthew 5:29–30
8. Keep Your Word—Matthew 5:37
9. Go the Second Mile—Matthew 5:38–42
10. Love Your Enemies—Matthew 5:44
11. Be Perfect—Matthew 5:48
12. Practice Secret Disciplines—Matthew 6:1–18
13. Lay Up Treasures—Matthew 6:19–21
14. Seek God's Kingdom—Matthew 6:33
15. Judge Not—Matthew 7:1
16. Do Not Cast Pearls—Matthew 7:6
17. Ask, Seek, and Knock—Matthew 7:7–8
18. Do Unto Others—Matthew 7:12
19. Choose the Narrow Way—Matthew 7:13–14
20. Beware of False Prophets—Matthew 7:15
21. Pray For Laborers—Matthew 9:38
22. Be Shrewd as Serpents—Matthew 10:16
23. Fear God, Not Man—Matthew 10:26
24. Hear God's Voice—Matthew 11:15
25. Take My Yoke—Matthew 11:29
26. Honor Your Parents—Matthew 15:4
27. Beware of Leaven—Matthew 16:6
28. Deny Yourself—Luke 9:23
29. Despise Not Little Ones—Matthew 18:10
30. Go to Offenders—Matthew 18:15
31. Beware of Covetousness—Luke 12:15
32. Forgive Offenders—Matthew 18:21–22
33. Honor Marriage—Matthew 19:6
34. Be a Servant—Matthew 20:26–28
35. Be a House of Prayer—Matthew 21:13
36. Ask in Faith—Matthew 21:21–22
37. Bring in the Poor—Luke 14:12–14
38. Render to Caesar—Matthew 22:19–21
39. Love the Lord—Matthew 22:37–38
40. Love Your Neighbor—Matthew 22:39

41. Await My Return—Matthew 24:42–44
42. Remember Christ’s sacrifice in communion—Matthew 26:26–27
43. Be Born Again—John 3:7—Security
44. Keep My Commandments—John 14:15
45. Watch and Pray—Matthew 26:41
46. Feed My Sheep—John 21:15–16
47. Baptize My Disciples—Matthew 28:19
48. Receive God’s Power—Luke 24:49
49. Give—Luke 6:38
50. Make Disciples—Matthew 28:20

There are actually 684 commands in the New Testament!

Summarized in 7 Comprehensive Commands:

Repent

Believe

Baptize

Love

Pray

Communion

Make Disciples!

• 3). His Prayers

- Lord's Prayer... *“thy will be done...”*
- Garden of Gethsemane Prayer... *“not My will...”*
- **John 17:21 = *May they all be one, as You, Father, are in Me & I am in You. May they also be one in Us, so that the world may believe/know that You sent Me.***

III. His walk

Jesus walked His talk... and so do His followers!

Philippians 2:8 = “...He humbled Himself by becoming *obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross*”

The Christ of the Cross IS Comprehensive Love

- He is the **Source** of Love
- He was the first loving **Sent-one**
 - * Genesis 3:15
 - * John 3:16

- He demonstrated immeasurable love via **Sacrifice**
- He breathed out His love in **Scripture**

Quote

"Don't say you want to hear more from God when you won't pick up His megaphone." – JDP

- He gave us His love AND His **Spirit**
- His love is continuously flowing thru our **Sanctification**
- He modeled His love in **Serving**
- His love creates **Strength** (meek = strength under control)
- His love **Saturates...** it eliminates "compartmentalization"
- His love **Sets-apart** His people (ekklesia)
- His love calls us to **Step-up & Sound off** to wolves
- His love **Stands-firm** and perseveres in persecution
- His love **Sealed-the-deal** ("it is finished")
- His love does **Supernatural Scrubbing** (of our sin stains)
- His love ALWAYS **Speaks** the truth in love –ALWAYS
- His love is also **Serious & Stern** (to the "takers & fakers")
- His love can also be **Soft** (w/ kids, prostitutes, thieves...)

- His love knows **Sadness** too ("Jesus wept")
- His love is **Supportive** = ...all who are weak & heavy laden...
- His love **Saves!**

John 18:37 = "...*the reason I was born & came into the world is to testify to the truth...*"

- He was both the Truth & the Proof of God's love
- He came... & He is coming again!
- He walked on water AND He empowered water-walking!
- He was bruised on the heel... BUT He CRUSHED Satan's head!

Mark 10:45 = "*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*"

How Jesus walked in love...

- He left comfort... to come into combat
 - He was holy & humble

- He was intense & influential
- He was confrontational & comforting
 - He foretold & forgave
 - He healed & He hurled...
 - He warned & He wept...
- He made a whip & carried a cross
 - He prayed & obeyed
 - He rebuked & He rebuilt
 - He clarified & He confounded
- He spoke much of hell... AND help
 - He described goats & sheep...
wolves, wheat & weeds
- He was tempted... & He triumphed!
 - He died... & He rose again!
- He was both believed... & betrayed
 - He was “mocked & talked” about
- He made the ordinary... extraordinary

- He offered blessings & a blueprint

- He met real felt needs...

AND

He made real needs felt

Luke 14:27 = *Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.*

- He was both courageous & outrageous

- He called His **children** to MAKE a choice...
Not BE a choice

- He promised both power AND persecution

CLOSE:

Matthew 28:20 = *"I am with you ALWAYS, even to the end of the age."*

1 Peter 2:9 = (portrait of His people)

But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Because we **KNOW**...

the **SOURCE** of Love...

We **SEND** &/or are **SENT** out in love...

to **SERVE** our King in love...

and to **SACRIFICE** our lives in love...

so that some may be **SAVED** by love!
(God is love.)

Let's Pray!

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