

“A Will to Love God and Others”
2 John 1:4-6

“If you know these things, blessed (supremely blessed or happy) are you if you do them.” John 13:17

- “...were commanded by the Father...”
 - The word “commanded/commandment” is used four times in three verses, drawing attention to the centrality of this word. The importance of commands...
 - Obeying the commands are an evidence of salvation (1 John 2:3-5).
 - Obeying the commands are an evidence of our love for God (John 14:15).
 - Obeying the commands makes me abide in Christ leading to joy (John 15:10-11).
 - Obeying the commands is loving one another (John 15:17).
 - The Father, Son, and the Spirit commands submission:
 - Submission is a secondary mission that yields to a greater one; that is the greatest mission, which is to glorify God (1 Peter 2:13-14). Submission to God is what mankind is called to (James 4:6-7; 1 Corinthians 11:3; Romans 10:9) and delighting in God is submitting to God (Psalm 37:3-6). When we experience the joy of obeying God we will rejoice in others obeying God.
 - This love that we have been called to starts with our will and that leads to emotions. To strive to obey Him in every detail of His Will is to experience joy in every detail of our lives (Mark 12:28-31). The biblical definition of love is obedience to God’s Word (1 John 5:2-3). Love is not a fleeting emotion but a lasting commitment (1 John 3:18).
- “And now I ask you dear lady:”
 - John is asking for a focus and attention to his next statement. There is a seriousness and urgency to the next part of his letter.
- “Not as though I was writing you a new commandment, but the one we had from the beginning:”
 - The truth of “loving one another” goes all the way back to the beginning (Genesis 2:16-17), then to the Law (Leviticus 19:18) and then to the earthly ministry of Jesus (John 13:34-35). God’s standard has never changed (Matthew 5:17-20); Christ’s perfect righteousness has now been placed on our lives (2 Corinthians 5:21).
 - How is this then new (John 13:34-35; 1 John 2:7-8)?
 - Christ has modeled the “love one another” commandment perfectly (2 Corinthians 5:21).
 - Because of the Holy Spirit indwelling believers through the Spirit we can walk like Christ (Romans 5:5).
- “In truth and love....”
 - “Walking” a certain way is mentioned three times in these three verses. We are to walk in accordance to truth, but truth is never separate from love. Love and truth are companions.
 - Love rejoices in the truth (1 Corinthians 13:6).
 - The truth must be spoken in love (Ephesians 4:15).
 - So walking in truth is obeying God’s Word and not walking in truth would be walking in lies/darkness (John 3:19-21).
- The source of our ability to love is that we have been loved by God (1 John 4:19) and that we have the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16 & 22).
 - When we rely on God, loving God and others is not burdensome (1 John 5:3).
 - God could never love us more than He does in Christ (Romans 8:32; John 17:23 & 26).
 - God will also never love us less in Christ (Romans 8:39). (continued →)

Worship: What a Friend We Have in Jesus (Various Artists) Jesus I My Cross Have Taken (Indelible Grace Music)

Service Times: Sundays: Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays:(In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 7; Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- All of His grace and discipline is administered in love (Hebrews 12:6 & 10-11).
- Reminding ourselves of what God has done is the fuel to walk in obedience.
- How do I grow in my desire to walk in love?
 - We obey God, because we trust and respect Him as Lord.
 - We feed on His Word so that I can discover more about Him and His will.
 - We choose to believe His Word and promises as truth in the belief that we will grow in sanctification.