

## 1 John 2: 7—14; “Seeing Love First Hand”

### I. An Old Commandment.

There is nothing novel about the Bible’s command to love. And, Love for God’s people has always been a central defining characteristic of those who truly know God.

(Marvyn Eloff, *Teaching 1,2,3, John*, Christian Focus, 2016, pg. 56)

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” – Deuteronomy 6:5

“ . . . you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.”  
– Leviticus 19:18b

The command to love has its roots in creation. “God is love,” and his love defines who we are since we are created in his image.

(1 John. 4:8; John 17:24; Genesis 1:26—27)

### II. A New Commandment.

Why aren’t human beings more loving? Why is there so much hate? Because of the fall, we live under the curse of sin in a sin-dark world.

When we look around ourselves, we are blind to love. (Titus 3:3)

O.k. then, how is this command to love a new command? And, what difference does this new command make?

This old commandment that has new clarity in Christ Jesus. The old commandment is seen in the pages of Scripture; the new commandment is seen in the full blazing light of the life of Christ.

(John 8:12; 13:34; 1 Thessalonians 4:9)

Christ-like *agape* love seeks the holy welfare of others.

(John 3:16; 15:12—13; 1 John 3:13; Romans 5:6—11)

### III. A New Life.

Objection: Christ-like love seems so far beyond my abilities; how can I love as Christ commands me to love?

The love of God has transformed us into new creations in Christ so that we are now able to follow Christ new command to love as he has first loved us. (2 Corinthians 5:17—21; Galatians 2:20; Romans 8:37)

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