

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

### Title:

Loving and Abiding

### Speaker:

Peter Privitera

### Date:

November 21, 2021

### Scriptures:

1 John 2:7-11

**Theme:** Love your brother and thereby remain in the light.

**Introduction:** The wonders of creation often point us to power and goodness of God. And John uses one of those wonders, light, as a way of discussing his topic in this text. Light is one of his favorite metaphors, and here he uses light to show the connection between loving our brothers and walking with Jesus. How we treat one another reveals our status before Christ.

John's argument unfolds over two steps:

### 1. Look at love again (7-8)

John begins with a back-and-forth about an old/new commandment. He begins by saying that the commandment is not new, it's permanent.

The commandment is old because it reveals the shape of Christian reality. It's the way God has designed things to be.

As we keep that perspective in mind, we can be settled and endure in faith to the end. We are not disoriented by alternatives to God's truth.

The commandment is also old because it has been given to God's people for centuries (Lev 19:15-18).

But the commandment is new because John is giving it a new emphasis. He's bringing it to bear on the divisions within the church.

It's also new in that Jesus has changed the focus. Instead of loving others as we love ourselves, we are to love others as he loved us (John 13:34).

### 2. Walk in love again (9-11)

John builds a sandwich over these 3 verses. Verses 9 and 11 speak of those who hate their brothers. Verse 10 speaks of those who love them.

Implied is a dire warning: if we hate our brother or sister, we do not have Christ.

We need to be able to assess ourselves, and others at times, by these things.

It doesn't matter how much someone claims to be in the light; if they are not loving others their confession of faith is undermined.

Conversely, those who love their brothers have clarity (they abide in the light) and we can navigate life well (we do not stumble).

### Questions:

1. How are you loving your brothers and sisters in the church?
2. How would you like to grow in love?
3. Is there anyone you find difficult to love? Anyone you hate?