

## A Word For All



### Writing from the Heart

The passion and love of the Apostle John for his Messiah-Jesus and for the church resound in every breath and every pen stroke. We are the 'children' he writes to.

**Introduction:** John continues his contrasting themes of 'love and hate,' 'light and darkness' and concludes with a wonderful insight into generational ministry.

#### A. John Writes About Love *1 John 2:7-8*

At first glance it would appear that John contradicts himself by saying he is NOT writing a new commandment and then says He is. So what does he mean?

- 1. Gospel of love:** (:7) The old commandment here refers to the Gospel message which John details in John chapter 3. It is also the 'incarnation' message—the beginning. *1 John 1:1*
- 2. Commandment of love:** This is the 'new commandment' that Jesus gave his disciples that they should love one another. So John is reminding his readers about both the 'old' commandment of the Gospel message and the new commandment of love. *See John 13:34-35*
- 3. Trained for the Kingdom:** *Matt 13:52* How the 'old' and 'new' are a part of our witness.

#### B. John Writes About Hate *1 John 2:9-11*

- 1. The power of hate:** Hatred is darkness, and God is light. Any form of sin leads us into darkness. The one who has already been cleansed, still has full capacity to wander into darkness of some kind.

**Heb 12:14-15** "Pursue peace with all people...looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled..."

- 2. Darkness:** The Greek word, 'skotia' means moral insensitivity to the divine light. Being in darkness is being in deep trouble of soul, and in deep trouble with God.
- 3. Stay in the light:** (:19) When we love others it proves we are walking in the light and 'hate' will not be a source of stumbling. *See also 1 Peter 4:8-11*

#### C. John Writes to the Little Children *1 John 2:12-14*

- 1. Who are the 'little children?'** The best way to see these verses is that John is writing to all believers who he identifies as 'little children,' and then separately to the young and old in both 'age' and 'spiritual maturity'.
  - a. To fathers:** Verse 13 and 14 say the exact same thing. To those who have lived the longest—he reminds them that 'knowing' Him [day-by-day living the Word] is a 'beginning to end' life long adventure.
  - b. To the young:** John reminds them that for their 'phase' of life they need to 'abide' [rest in, have faith in] the Word [Christ] to learn to overcome the 'wicked one' the enemy of our soul. *Also see 1 John 2:3-5*

#### 1 John 2:7-14 (NKJV)

**:7** Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning.

**:8** Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.

**:9** He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now.

**:10** He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

**:11** But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

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**:12** *I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.*

**:13** *I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning.*

*I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked one.*

*I [have written] to you, little children, because you have known the Father.*

**:14** *I have written to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning.*

*I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.*