

Sermon Discussion Guide

“The Authentic Life” Series

Part 2: A New (Old) Commandment (1 John 2:7–17)

Icebreaker Questions: (*Option #1*): What is your favorite smell, and why? (*Option #2*): What is a recent book, band, or show you’ve been enjoying?

Prayer: Take a few moments at the beginning of your group time to pray for God’s presence and blessing on your discussion. At the end of your gathering, pray for one another and ask God to use your time together to strengthen your faith and make you more like Jesus.

Read: 1 John 2:7–17; also see John 13:34–35

Big Idea: John reminds believers that genuine faith is revealed through love for others and resistance to the world’s fading desires. Those who walk in Christ walk in the light, love one another, and cling to what lasts forever.

Discussion Questions

1. What was the most encouraging, convicting, confusing, or thought-provoking part of the sermon or Scripture reading to you this week, and why?
2. Read **1 John 2:7–8**. Which command is John referencing? Why do you think John says this command is both *old* and *new*? (See also John 13:34–35.) What does John mean by “its truth is seen in him and in you” (v. 8)?
3. Read **1 John 2:9–11**. What do we learn about hatred from this section? What has been most helpful to you in combating temptations to hate others (or cultivate bitterness in your heart toward others)?
4. Read **1 John 2:12–14**. How can John say in vv. 13 and 14 that you “have” overcome the evil one, even while we still struggle with temptation and sin?
 - a. What else stands out to you from these admonitions? Which part is most encouraging to you in this season of your life?
5. Read **1 John 2:15–17**. John spent vv. 9–11 talking about the importance of loving others. Now, in v. 15, he says, “Do not love the world or anything in the world.” So, like, what’s up with that? What is the difference between what John is talking about in vv. 9–11 & 15–17?
 - a. How can we be thankful for things in the world and enjoy God’s gifts, without “loving” the world in the way John warns against? How can we know when we’ve crossed that line?
 - b. Which aspect of John’s warning in vv. 15–17 is most timely for you?
6. Where do you see the gospel in today’s passage? How does today’s text and discussion make Jesus/the gospel more precious to you?
7. What is one specific way you would like to apply today’s Scripture readings or small group discussion this next week?

Scripture Reading

1 John 2:7–17 (NIV)

7 Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. 8 Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. 10 Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. 11 But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

Reasons for Writing

12 I am writing to you, dear children,
because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

13 I am writing to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young men,
because you have overcome the evil one.

14 I write to you, dear children,
because you know the Father.

I write to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men,
because you are strong,
and the word of God lives in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.

On Not Loving the World

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

John 13:34–35 (NIV)

34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”