

## 1 JOHN 2:3-11 (NASB)

<sup>3</sup>By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. <sup>4</sup>The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; <sup>5</sup>but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: <sup>6</sup>the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard. <sup>8</sup>On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining. <sup>9</sup>The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. <sup>10</sup>The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. <sup>11</sup>But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

## REVIEW

Thus far, John has been exhorting his readers to be honest with themselves...*and with God*. This is how one lives in the Light!

## STUDY IT

- How does someone "keep a commandment"? (v.3)
- Again, John is stressing the virtue of honesty and truth.
  - How does verse 4 parallel the same teaching John gives just a few verses earlier in 1:8?
  - What is the relationship between *admitting our sin* and *knowing God*?
- How does John use WORD and TRUTH similarly?
- What makes the love of God "perfect" in us? (v.5)

- There's a shift in John's language: In vs.3-4, the truth is in God's people. In v.5, he now states that through obedience, we are *in God*. What does it mean to be "in God" or "in Christ"?
- How do we know we are in Christ? (v.6)
- How is John's commandment both "old" and "new"? (vs.7-8)
- What does loving our brothers and sisters reveal about us? (v.9)
- Why might hate/rejection keep us in darkness? (v.10)
- How does such hate/rejection cause us or others to stumble? (v.10)
- In summary of these verses, what is *spiritual blindness*? How does John describe its dangerous consequences? (v.11)

## APPLY IT

- What are some ways that you have experienced spiritual blindness in your failure to obey God?
- What are some ways that you have experienced spiritual blindness in your hate toward others?
- How has someone loved you and encouraged you to remain in the light?
- How have *you* loved others and encouraged them to remain in the light?
- How do you keep God's commandment of love? In doing so, how would you describe the *light* that is in you?

## WORD LIST

- *Love* – (Greek, verb – *agapaō*) the unconditional affection for another
- *Hate* – (Greek, verb – *miseō*) the conditional and merit-based rejection of *or* indifference toward another