

THE MORALITY TEST (1 John 2:7-11)

I. The principle stated (7-8).

- A. John shows us that the principle is a command that is both old and new.
- B. It was old because it was something that they had heard from the beginning..
 - 1. It was the word that they had been taught.
 - 2. The word was what they had heard from the beginning.
- C. It was new in the sense that it never grows old.
 - 1. This is a command that never stales or stagnates.
 - 2. It is a principle that will always be present as long as the world stands and there is someone who professes to be a Christian.
- D. What is the principle?
 - 1. No doubt John is referring to what is recorded in John 13:34 - the command to love one another.
 - 2. What makes this a new command is the extent of the love - "as I (Jesus) have loved you."
 - 3. This is also evident from 2 John 5.
 - 4. This principle is also stated in 1 John 3:11.
- E. What type of love is meant in this principle?
 - 1. It is not "storge", which is love for family members.
 - 2. It is not "eros", which is the physical love between a husband and wife.
 - 3. It is not "phileo", which is the love for close friends.
 - 4. It is "agape", which is the seeking of what is best for others, regardless of closeness to the recipient of the love.
- F. This "agape" love is what is mentioned in John 13:34 by Jesus.
- G. This is the sacrificial love that Jesus had for all mankind (1 John 3:16).
- H. It is with this kind of love that men will know we belong to Jesus (John 13:35).
- I. This is true in Jesus and in those that belong to Jesus, John then tells us.
- J. John tells us that the reason we can know this is true is that the darkness is in the past and the light of love is now shining.
 - 1. I believe that John had a statement of Jesus in mind when writing this that is recorded in John 8:12.
 - 2. Wherever the gospel has gone, darkness is pushed back and the light of the gospel of Christ begins to shine.
 - 3. This gospel brings light, in one sense, because it brings the love of Jesus to people who were ruled by sin.
- K. The test is: Are we following the principle of love?

II. The false profession (9).

- A. It is impossible to say that you are in the light of Christ and hate your brother.
- B. We must ask the question, Who is my brother?
 - 1. Of course, generally speaking, Jesus answered that with the parable of the Good Samaritan.

- 2. Everyone is my brother.
- C. Specifically, a brother in Christ.
 - 1. We have the same Father and the same origin.
 - 2. We would be hating someone who is just like us.
- D. The word “hateth” does not describe the extent of the state, just the fact that it exists.
 - 1. If there is this attitude to any extent in us, we are in darkness.
 - 2. It will come out in our attitude, words or actions if we hate someone.
- E. One commentator wrote, “If people are troubled today because of the gap between people’s profession and their performance, it might help to recall that the problem is indeed and old one.”
 - 1. There have always been people that say they are something then their actions prove they are not.
 - 2. There have always been hypocrites.
- F. We fail the test when we give a false profession.

III. **Love’s potential (10).**

- A. Two things take place when we love:
 - 1. We abide in the light.
 - 2. We don’t stumble or cause others to stumble.
- B. Abide means to remain and the tense states that we keep on remaining in the light.
 - 1. This means we have fellowship with God.
 - 2. It also means we have continual access to the blood of Jesus for cleansing from sin.
- C. Woods wrote the following about the tense of the word: “Moreover, the force of the tense indicates that he has not only entered upon this sphere; he has settled down into it as if it were his home.”
 - 1. This is a place from which the one who loves is not going to move.
 - 2. Love is a way of life for the one in fellowship with the Father and the Son.
- D. Because there is light, we will not stumble.
 - 1. We can clearly see where we are walking and leading others.
 - 2. Walking in the light allows us to see the pitfalls of life before we fall into them.
 - 3. Love leaves no place for sin, therefore, when sin is committed, as it will be, the one who loves God quickly repents so as not to mar the relationship.
- E. Love has the potential to keep us in a right relationship with God.

IV. **The problems of hate (11).**

- A. There are three problems with hate that the one who loves will avoid.
- B. The first is that you are in darkness if you hate.
 - 1. Of course, this is opposite of the previous verse..
 - 2. This is the inward condition of the person.
- C. The second is that you walk in darkness.
 - 1. This is the outward life of the person.

2. They are in the darkness of sin, falling into sins traps.
- D. The third is that you don't know where you are going because you have been blinded by the darkness.
1. This person has lost his sense of direction.
 2. He may think that he is in a right relationship with God, by professing to be in the light, but he is blinded.
 3. Blinded by darkness, he cannot see that he is on the road to eternal damnation.
- E. The sad part is, most people don't even know that they are in this condition.