

Honest to Self

Greek maxim: 'Know yourself'

1 John illustrates maxim in three claims –

1. 2:4, claim to know Him . . . liar
2. 2:6, claim to remain in Him . . . walk
3. 2:9, claim in light . . . hate

This is a test: 9-10

Brotherly love

The choice

1. hatred: in darkness
2. love: remain in light; no stumbling

Hate brother (11)?

Hate blinds to fate

I. The Enlightenment, 2:4-6

4: if conduct contradicts claim, may be due to . . .

1. Ignorance. Needs teaching
2. Preference. Some are harder to love
3. Conflict. Ph.4:2-3
4. Self-deception. 'I love' (Tit.3:3)
5. Anger / Tongue / Pride.
6. All talk, no action. Ja.2:15-17
7. Think we can't change.
8. Disobedience.

5-6:
obedience
reveals
mature
love for
God.

I. The Enlightenment, 2:4-6

II. The Explanation, 2:7-11

7: Beloved

- John expresses love when encouraging love
- *Not new*: Lv.19:18
- *From beginning*: one of first lessons readers learned: love

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” – Gal.5:14.

8: Again: second look at the command

- *New command*: not time, but quality
 - Jn.13:34-35, higher quality
 - Lk.10, new quality of love
- *Darkness is passing away*: 'world' (17)

“The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned” – Mt.4:16

8: Again: second look at the command

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 - Jn.13:34-35, higher quality
 - Lk.10, new quality of love
- *Darkness is passing away*: 'world' (17)
- *True light*: Jn.1:9
 - *John*: Mk.3:17; 10:35-45; Lk.9:51-56

9: in darkness

- 1:6, by disobedience; 2:9, by hatred.
 - Words match deeds. Joab
 - Learn love.

And the King will answer and say to them,
'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you
did it to one of the least of these My brethren,
you did it to Me' – Mt.25:40

- Slander? Anger? Revenge? Grudges?

10: not 'either love or obedience' (Jn.14:15)

- Abides: of one mind with God
- No cause for stumbling (stumbling-block, trap) either . . .
 - In way of another (Mt.18:7)
 - On our own (Jn.11:9-10)

⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.

¹⁰ But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him" – Jn.11

10: not 'either love or obedience' (Jn.14:15)

- Love sees straight, thinks clearly

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life” – Jn.8:12

Then Jesus said to them, “A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you” – Jn.12:35

11: profile of a hater

- **His existence:** darkness, 8, 9, 11.
- **His activity:** walks in darkness, 1:6.
- **His ignorance:** does not know; Mt.25:41.
- **His blindness:** due to darkness.

“...whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them”
– 2 Co.4:4.

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- **His activity:** walks in darkness, 1:6.
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“The way of the wicked is like darkness;
They do not know what makes them
stumble” – Pro.4:19.

I. The Enlightenment, 2:4-6

II. The Explanation, 2:7-11

II. The Emphasis

3:11-18

[Complements 2:7-11]

3:11: message from beginning
(of their new life)

- Cain illustrates what is at stake: choices
- Love one another suggests opposite:
brotherly hate

3:11-18

3:12: Cain: first to hate his brother

- Works reveal moral parentage and deeds, Jn.8:44
 - Murder: slaughter, butcher, properly by 'cutting throat'
 - Abel worked righteousness [not Abel's fault]. Hb.11:4
 - Abel's faith → Cain's jealousy , murder
 - Ophites . . . Cainites
- Cain's evil works; Abel's righteous. Jd.11

3:11-18

3:13: realize world hates us

- Cain lives on.

“¹⁸ If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you” – John 15.

3:11-18

3:13: realize world hates us

- Cain lives on.

¹ “These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. ² They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service – John 16.

3:11-18

3:14: we know:

- Without love = hater (as Cain)
- **Spiritual suicide**

LIGHT

LIFE

LOVE

Love is evidence of life

DARK

DEATH

HATE

Hate is evidence of death

3:11-18

3:14: we know:

- Without love = hater (as Cain)
- Proof of life: love
- Proof of love:

Unselfish,
1 Co.13:1-3

Kind,
Ep.4

Forgiving,
Ep.4

3:11-18

3:15: 'I'm no murderer'

- Motive matters. Mt.5:21-22

In danger before murder

- Not loving is hating
- **Spiritual murder**

3:11-18

3:16: we know love / hate by their works

- We follow Lord's example: lay down lives (opposite of murder). 1 Jn.4:19
- Our choice: Cain or Christ
- **Spiritual sacrifice**

3:11-18

3:17: few opportunities to die for others,
but lesser sacrifices abound

- “**Has + Sees + Shuts**” = no love
- “Shuts up his **heart**” (inward parts)...

U.S. law:
hate crime is
overt act

God judges
motives.
Mt.5; 6

3:11-18

3:18: not against affectionate speech,
but mere lip service

- Love is known ONLY by its actions

4:7-12

4:7_a: Precept (2:7, commanded) – let us love as He commands

4:7_b: Proof. Describes love's...

- Heavenly origin
 - Active, unselfish, spiritual
 - World loves its own (Jn.15:19)
- Identifying trait (2:29)
- True knowledge (knows God – source of love, v.8)

4:7-12

4:8: Penalty

- Opposite of v.7.
 - A stranger to love is a stranger to God
 - Gnostics: love is unnecessary

4:7-12

4:9: Price – sent His Son, 3:16

- **Son dies** (3:16); **we live** (4:9)
- 3:1–5:12, love . . .
 - Verb: 18 times in 1 John
 - Noun: 18 times in 1 John

4:7-12

4:10: Priority:

- Our love merely responds to His (Ro.5:6-10)

4:7-12

4:11: Persuasion:

- “If” (since) God ‘so’ loved the unlovable...
 - God Set standard for us – what is my duty?

‘I would love brethren,
but I don’t see any worthy’

4:7-12

4:12: Perfection

- No one can gaze long enough to see God
- BUT: people should see evidence of His love in us

The Christian is the window through which God's love shines in the world.

When love is absent, so is knowledge of God. Do I love the unlovable???