

1 John 2:7-11

Signs of Life:
Love for Fellow Christians

Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever 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.

1 John 2:7-11

Love for Fellow Christians

1. The commandment to love is old, that is, it is well-established (v.7)
 2. The commandment to love is new, that is, an entirely new reality has dawned with the beginning of the kingdom of Jesus (v.8)
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The Emperor Julian to Arsacius, the leading pagan priest in Galatia (c. AD 360)

“Observe how the kindness of Christians to strangers, their care for the burial of their dead, and the sobriety of their lifestyle has done the most to advance their cause. Each of these things, I think, ought really to be practiced by us. It is not sufficient for you alone to practice them, but so must all the priests in Galatia without exception. Erect many hostels, one in each city, in order that strangers may enjoy my kindness, not only those of our own faith but also of others whosoever is in want of money. ...For it is disgraceful, when no Jew is a beggar and the impious Galileans [Christians] support our poor in addition to their own; everyone is able to see that our coreligionists are in want of aid from us.”

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Love for Fellow Christians

3. Love for fellow Christians is an absolute proof of the reality of a person's relationship with God (v.10)
 4. A failure to love fellow Christians is an absolute proof that someone is separated from God (vv.9, 11)
 - If you lack love for your brothers and sisters in Christ, then you are guilty of hating them. (Deut 21:15-17; 2 Sam 19:6; Prov 13:24)
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Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man!

Luke 6:22

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