

DISCUSSION

1. What does John mean in v. 5 when he claims that God’s love is “perfected” in those who remain faithful to God’s Word?
2. In vv. 4-5, John makes a connection between the love of God and the keeping of His commandments. How does this differ from secular perspectives on godly love?
3. Throughout this letter, John continually speaks of God’s love for us and our love for one another. How are these two loves related?
4. According to vv. 7-8, the commandment to love one another is not a new concept. However, John also says that this commandment has a new reality, made possible through Jesus. What is this new reality that John refers to (v. 8)? Why is this so important to understand as we seek to live out this commandment?
5. Read John 1:4-9 and 1 John 2:8-11. Why do you think John uses this language of light expelling darkness to refer to the work of Christ in us?
6. What are some implications of Jesus’ words “whoever hates his brother is still in darkness”? How do these words affect other areas of life, including how we view those who are different from us and those who are in need?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

1. What separates a Christian from a non-Christian?
2. Why is it so important to be obedient to God's Word?
3. Where should our love for other people come from?
4. How does God help us be obedient to His Word each day?

NEXT STEPS

- Take some time to genuinely evaluate if your belief in God is a belief that works. Ask a spouse or accountability partner to evaluate the quality of obedience he or she perceives in your life as it relates to loving God and loving others.
- As a review, read through 1 John 1:1-2:11. Write down themes and truths that stick out to you. Which ones are convicting? Meditate on them and consider how you might apply those verses to your life. Follow up this exercise by praying for strength and humility as you seek to be an obedient disciple.