
Essential Christianity:

Where Does True Love Come From?

*New Hope Community Church
Dr. Jack Bracy, September 23, 2018*

Everybody Longs for True Love – Few Practice It

Love Is Fundamental to Christianity

⁷ Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment—to love one another—is the same message you heard before.

“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.” *Leviticus 19:18, NLT*

^{8a} “Yet it is also new...”

Old in Origin but A Practice That Every Generation of
Believers Must Make New in Their Lives

^{8b} “Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, and you also are living it.”

Love Is in Jesus – When I Get Jesus
I Get This Love

Believers Were Never Called to Live a Label,
We Were Changed by Grace to Love

“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. **Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.**” *John 13:34–35, NLT*

“But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!”
Matthew 5:44, NLT

Light Creates Love Where It Has Never Existed

Love and Light Go Together, But Love Does Not Cause Light

^{8c} “...For the darkness is disappearing, and the true light is already shining. ⁹ If anyone claims, “I am living in the light,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is still living in darkness. ¹⁰ Anyone who loves a fellow believer is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble. ¹¹ But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness.”

Darkness Flees When True Light Shines
Vs 8b

I Am Not Walking in The Light with Christ If I Practice Hate
Vs 9 (1:7)

3 Concepts That Are Linked
V10

Loves – Light – Stumble

Darkness Causes Blindness

Vs 11

“Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.” 2 Corinthians 4:4, NLT

If My Significant Relationships Are Full of Toxicity, I Do Not Need to
Try Harder, I Need More of God’s Pure Light

If I Only Love Like Other People Love: I Do Not Know, or I Am Not
Experiencing the Real Jesus – I Am Merely Religious