**The Study of 1 John: Joy Through Abiding Fellowship**

**The Old and the New Commandment – 1 John 2:7-11**

**Hermeneutics:** How to interpret a text that refers to a historical event.

**Love is Both the Old and the New Commandment:**

*"7 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. 8 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.*

 (1 John 2:7-8)

1. **The old commandment which is not new**. (Note, John 13:34–35)
2. **The commandment from the beginning**.(Note, 1 John 3:11)

**When We Walk in the light:**

*“9 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. 10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.* (1 John 2:9-10)

1. **Hatred is the absence of love, just as darkness is the absence of light**.
2. **You are your brother's keeper**.
3. **You cannot simultaneously be in the light and hate your brother**. 1 John 1:5-6
4. **When you love, you walk in the light and will not be a cause for stumbling**.

**When We Walk in Darkness:**

*11 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 2:11)

**Walking in darkness produces:**

* Hated.
* Misdirection.
* Blindness.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Read John 13:24 and John 13:1-20 and discuss what it means to love like Jesus.
2. What would happen if you were your brother’s keeper?
3. Discuss the implications of walking in darkness. 1 John 2:11