

**BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE**  
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**HOLDING ON TO THE OLD,  
TAKING HOLD OF THE NEW -**

**A NEW COMMANDMENT**

**1 John Series on Genuine / Confident Christianity**

**1 JOHN 2:7-11**

There are things in life we are to hold on to. There are some things we are to let go of. There are some things in life that we are to take hold of and something's in life that we are not to take hold of.

For those who know God, we need to show that we know God by the way we treat others. John proclaimed the churches responsibility to love God and love one another. Loving one another gives evidence that we know God and love God.

We need to begin to show our love for God by showing our love to one another. This passage gives us some **distinctions** of holding on to the old and taking hold of the new.

**I. THERE'S THE PREVIOUS COMMANDMENT  
THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED (Vs. 7)**

The old commandment, which they had received, was to love the Lord and love one another. (**Leviticus 19:18; Mark 12:28-31.**) **"Brethren"**: could be translated **'beloved.'** It is a term of endearment. John loved those who he wrote to. When we do not have love for one another we give evidence that we do not love Jesus like we should. The commandment that we've had from the beginning is to love one another. (**1 John 3:11**).

The church had received the commandment to love one another. John reminds us about the previous commandment that we have received. Next we see:

**II. THERE'S THE PRESENT COMMANDMENT THAT WE ARE  
TO BELIEVE. (Vs. 8-11)**

John reminds the people of God that the new commandment is the old commandment with a new dynamic a new emphasis. *It is old in fact, but new in freshness, old in principle, but new in practice.*

John says that because the love of God has come, and the light of God has come that the darkness is passing away. The darkness is passing away and will one day be totally gone.

**Shining: means 'to shine, to be brought forth into light, or to appear.'** \*God's true light shines through God's loving saints.\* We are to let God's light shine. *We are not to hinder God's light, hide God's light, or hoard God's light.* (**Matthew 5:16**)

We cannot truly believe God's word and not be changed by God's word. Believing will always affect our behaving. John shares two ways we can relate to this present command.

- A. We Can Take Hold of the Truth by Loving Our Brother. (Vs. 10)**
- B. We Can Turn Away From the Truth by Loathing Our Brother. (Vs. 9;11)**

**Question: Do we say one thing with our lips and show another thing with our lives?**

**Warren Wiersbe** gives us a sobering truth: *"It is impossible to be in fellowship with the Father and out of fellowship with another Christian at the same time."*

John points out two truths in **verse 11**.

- 1. This Person's Position.(Vs. 11a)**
- 2. This Person's Perception. (Vs. 11b)**

They do not know where they are going. Here's the reason for their missed-up perception. *"because the darkness has blinded his eyes."* John teaches us that those who have hate in their hearts are blinded and cannot know where they are going. Hatred harbored in the heart will harness people for hell.