**1 John 2:7 (KJV)** 7 Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.

1. **1 John 2:7 (KJV)** 7 Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. Love God with all your heart, soul and might. (Deut. 6:5)
   1. Love your neighbor was written as a specific commandment, but various instructions were given on how to treat people justly. **Leviticus 19:18 (KJV)** 18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I *am* the LORD.
2. **1 John 2:8 (KJV)** 8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.
   1. Jesus said to love the Lord thy God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind.
   2. Jesus said the second greatest commandment was to love your neighbor as you love yourself.
      1. He greatly expanded the meaning of “neighbor.” **Luke 10:36-37 (KJV)** 36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbor unto him that fell among the thieves?   
         37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.
      2. He even included directions on how to treat one’s enemies. **Matthew 5:44 (KJV)** 44 But I say unto you, “Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;”
   3. Jesus reveals God clearly, as He is the light. He clearly reveals the love of God to us.
      1. From this we can understand that love is more than just following certain guidelines or meeting certain standards or requirements.
         1. Genuine love is revealed in actions motivated from the heart.
         2. Mere outward conformity is not evidence of love.
3. **1 John 2:9 (KJV)** 9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.
   1. One can profess and practice religion outwardly, but does not love God if he hates his neighbor.
      1. If one loves his brother, there is no opportunity for Satan to use what is in his heart to sow discord and discontent between brethren.
      2. If one harbors hatred and ill will in his heart towards other brethren, he is walking in darkness, is deceived, and is unaware of his condition.
      3. Hatred for our neighbors can come in many forms; neglect, dislike, disregard, criticism, backbiting, and mistreatment.