

Problem: openly shallow small groups
presumption is loving in the abstract or theoretically - Rev 2:1-5
assurance is loving actually in the here and now

Main Idea:

In light of the timeless commandment
The test of assurance isn't: whoever says or doesn't say
The test of assurance is: whoever loves
or doesn't love

Implication:

we are not of the darkness anymore

Application: Is His light already shining in your life? (2:8)

our selfless acts of love for one another in the midst of this dark world- not only assure us, they act as an apologetic showing the darkness the reality of His light

Text:

In light of the timeless commandment

1John 2:7 ¶ 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.

1John 2:8 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**.

(7) *commandments - which ones? 1 Jn 2:3-8*

(7) *an old command - Matt 22:37-40 (lev 19:18) -all commandments hang upon it
-> to love your wife is higher than to not commit adultery etc.-> Rom 13:8-10
had from the beginning - 2 Jn 5-6*

(8) *A new emphasis - John 13:1-17, 34 (now we know and can show)
Rom 5:5-8; 1 Jn 4:10 -> more than foot washing - fuller meaning ->Matt 5:17*

(8) *true light already shining - Jn 1:5, 9; 8:12*

The test of assurance isn't: whoever says or doesn't say

1John 2:9 **Whoever says (is saying)** he is in the light **and hates (and yet hating)** his brother **is (main verb)** still in darkness.

- *whoever says - 1 Jn 2:3-4, 6*

we are not called to feel a certain way but to act a certain way -Matt 7:15-27

if you say you love Christ but don't actually love christians you don't love Christ

The test of assurance is: whoever loves

1John 2:10 **Whoever loves** his brother abides in the light, and in him (the Light) there is no cause for stumbling (scandal).

abiding in Him in the light 1 Jn 1:7, in His love - Jn 15:8-17;

implication: it is about you loving these people not being loved by these people

no cause for stumbling - should I xyz? 1 Cor 10:23-24

Or doesn't love

1John 2:11 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.

we were once in darkness like this- Tit 3:3

blinded by darkness ->this is the judgment - Jn 3:19-21

Implication: we are not of the darkness anymore -> Eph 5:8; Col 1:13; 1 Pet 2:9

Application: Is His light already shining in your life ? 1 Jn 2:8; Matt 5:11-16

Articles for further study:

<http://counselingoneanother.com/2011/08/17/36-ways-to-love-one-another/>

<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/three-lessons-on-loving-one-another>