



## Part 3: Life's Bottom Line 1 John 2:3-17

Jesus said: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34,35 (See Matt. 22:37-40)

We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. 1 John 2:3

### Three Essentials Truths About Life:

#### 1. Realize

Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you... Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. 1 John 2:7-10

How does this impact my life?

- Spending
- Relationships
- Words
- Decisions
- Attitudes
- Analysis of my spiritual life

#### 2. Remember

I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. 1 John 2:12

#### 3. Resist

"The human heart will love. It's not a question of *whether* you love. It's a question of \_\_\_\_\_ you love." –John Ortberg

Do not love **the world or anything in the world**. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world --the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does --comes not from the Father but from the world. 1 John 2:15,16

- \_\_\_\_\_ : the cravings of sinful man
- \_\_\_\_\_ : the lust of his eyes

- \_\_\_\_\_ : the boasting of what he has and does

Problem: They \_\_\_\_\_!

The world and its desires **pass away**, but the man who does the will of God lives forever. 1 John 2:17

## Daily Meditations

Spend time each day this week meditating on today's topic!

### This week's memory verse:

The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever. 1 John 2:17

### Monday

Look over the notes and verses from this past weekend. Write down two things that particularly struck you.

Read John 13:34,35 & 1 John 2:3-17. What do these verses teach you about love?

Why do you think love is life's bottom line?

How could living in the light of God's love impact your:

Spending:

Relationships:

Words:

Decisions:

Attitude:

Spiritual Life:

Thank God today for His love for you. Thank Him for the impact of His love on your life. Pray that His love will change your life and relationships even today!

### Tuesday

Read 1 John 2:15-16. Ouch! This one hurts! It is so easy to love the wrong things - so easy we do not always realize what has happened!

Recall a time when you realized your heart was set on the wrong things. What impact did that have on your relationship with others? On your relationship with God?

Which of these three do you struggle most with: Appetites(cravings of sinful man), appearance(lust of the eyes) or acquisition(boasting of what you have and do)?

Write down one thing you learned last weekend that can help you deal with that struggle. How will you apply that to your life today?

*Thank God today that in Him you have all you need. Ask Him to see life through His eyes and heart. Pray that day-by-day you will increasingly grow in your love for Him and others. Ask Him to loosen any grip that appetites, appearance and acquisition may have on you.*

### **Wednesday**

Read 1 John 2:12. When is it difficult for you to believe that you have been forgiven God or others?

How does forgiveness communicate love?

How has God's forgiveness impacted your life?

How has God's forgiveness of you helped you forgive to others?

*Thank God today for His forgiveness. Thank Him for the example He has set for you. Ask Him to give you a heart of forgiveness that imitates His. Pray that those around you will be encouraged by your love for them.*

### **Thursday**

Read 1 John 2:7-10. Write down three other things that you've read in the Bible about loving others.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Why do you think God puts such a premium on our love of others being a proof that we are walking in the light of His love?

Recall a time when you tried to walk in the light of God's love and be unloving towards someone. How did that impact your relationships?

*Thank God today that He is light and in Him is no darkness. Ask Him to show you any place in your heart where you are harboring an unloving attitude. Pray that your life will increasingly be lived in the light and freedom of His love.*

### **Friday**

Read 1 John 2:17. Spend time meditating on this verse. Think about its implications in light of all that you've studied in First John the last couple of weeks. Write down your thoughts as you meditate on this verse. How could this verse impact your life?

*Thank God today for the opportunity to invest your life in things that are eternal! Pray that your heart's desire would be to do the will of God.*

### **Saturday**

Take the time today to go over any devotions you may have missed and to complete your memorization of this week's verse. Pray for the ministry this weekend! Thanks!