

Recap

And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did. [1 John 2:3-6](#)



Love Perfected

Recap

How do we **know** something?

We **live** as if that knowledge is true

We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God. [John 6:69](#)

How do we **prove** that knowledge?

The knowledge transforms us

Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them. [John 13:17](#)

Recap

Cognitive
Encoded **Jesus** Relational
Metaphysical

When Did Hatred Become OK?, Scot Mcknight

A direct question, I'm sorry to say, must now be asked of Christians. **Are we trapped in hatred?**

My take on the situation in America, however, is that most that I observe – a high percentage of the FB feed – are not infected simply with righteous indignation or scapegoating. It's gone deeper to **actual hatred**. It has boiled over into the non-stop intoxication with posts and updates and tweets. It's become all-day amygdala stimulation.

When Did Hatred Become OK?, Scot Mcknight

The greatest heroes of the 20th Century who opposed regimes and wanted regime change were not agents of hatred but agents with a firm resolution to work for **justice** and **peace**. Their passion did not convert them into agents of hate but agents of dogged determination and tireless work for change. I'm thinking of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Nelson Mandela. You may think of others.

Dehumanization is seeing an individual or a group as lacking human qualities. Dehumanization occurs when an individual or group establishes in their belief system that another individual or group is inferior. While no one can clearly define all the reasons for violent action, most sociologists and historians believe that dehumanization is a clear antecedent to violence. Humans do not persecute groups or individuals they perceive as equal. Thus, dehumanization is the first, **crucial link** in the long and barbarous chain of violent action, that can only be overcome by rehumanization.

Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment—to love one another—is the same message you heard before. Yet it is also new. Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, and you also are living it. For the darkness is disappearing, and the true light is already shining. [1 John 2:7-8](#)

If anyone claims, "I am living in the light," but hates a fellow believer, that person is still living in darkness. Anyone who loves a fellow believer is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble. But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness. 9-11

Old/New Commandment

The Decalogue (Ten Commandments) are primarily **relational laws** between humanity and God. If these are relational laws, what has been forgotten is that **love** must be the **catalyst** for obedience

"Rules without **relationship** leads to rebellion." Josh McDowell

Old/New Commandment

Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite, but **love your neighbour** as yourself. I am the Lord. [Leviticus 19:18](#)

Do not take advantage of foreigners who live among you in your land. Treat them like native-born Israelites, and **love them** as you love yourself [vs 33-34a](#)

Understand, therefore, that the Lord your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who **love him and obey his commands**. [Deuteronomy 7:9](#)

Old/New Commandment

But I say, **love your enemies!** Pray for those who persecute you! [Matthew 5:44](#)

Bless those who curse you. **Pray** for those who hurt you. [Luke 6:28](#)

Jesus said, "Father, **forgive them**, for they don't know what they are doing." [Luke 23:34](#)

Old/New Commandment

These are all **fraudulent** forms of love because they are all setting up a kind of **exchange** where you help others in order to help yourself. And that means that you aren't really acting in love toward the other person, but are only doing what is necessary to have them meet your desires and your "needs." You will fulfill that other person's desires only to the degree that they fulfill yours. That's not love at all because it's oriented inward instead of outward, it's obsessed with what you can get instead of what you can give. It's all just **self love**. [Tim Challies](#)

Old/New Commandment

John is concerned that our definition of love is too **weak**. We live our love with **self deception**. Our love is pagan.

Old/New Commandment

If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? **Even pagans do that**. [Matthew 5:46-47](#)

Old/New Commandment

First, it was new in its **emphasis**, in that Jesus brought it together with the command to love God as the summation of the entire Law. Second, it was new in its **quality**, in that His own self-sacrifice on the cross became the standard. Third, it was new in its **extent**, in that in the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus extended the definition of neighbour to go beyond race or religion. Anyone in need who crosses our path is our neighbour. He said that we should love even our enemies. Finally, it was new in the disciples' continuing **apprehension** of it. The love of Jesus on the cross is inexhaustible. [John Stott](#)

Claim/Test

If anyone **claims**, "I am living in the light," but hates a fellow believer, that person is still living in darkness. Anyone who loves a fellow believer is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble. But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the **way** to go, having been blinded by the darkness. 9-11

Since John believes our love is too **weak** he has devised a **test** to see how truly we are **aligned** with Jesus

Claim/Test

the entire Bible may be summed up by the two great commandments, to love God and to love one another. So learning how to **establish** and **maintain** loving relationships is not "graduate level" Christianity. It is **basic, beginning** Christianity. [Steven J. Cole](#)

Claim/Test

You will need to **unlearn** many bad ways of relating to others that you brought with you from the past. You will need to **relearn** how to think and speak and act in loving ways, especially toward those who wrong you. If you do not **learn to love** others, you will fester with anger and bitterness, and your relationship with Christ will suffer. [Steven J. Cole](#)

Claim/Test

On its surface, this command should be the **easiest** of all and yet throughout history, Christians have hated other Christians in ways that **break** the heart of Jesus

"Love is the true **test** of light" Charles Spurgeon

Claim/Test

still living and walking in darkness

And many will **turn away from me** and **betray and hate each other**. And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will **grow cold**. [Matthew 24:10-12](#)

What is the **implication** here?

Claim/Test

Such people **claim** they know God, but they **deny him by the way they live**. They are detestable and disobedient, **worthless** for doing anything good. [Titus 1:16](#)

They will act religious, but they will **reject** the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that! [2 Timothy 3:5](#)

Your love for one another will **prove** to the world that you are my disciples [John 13:35](#)

Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. **Test** yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of **genuine faith** [2 Corinthians 13:5](#)

Claim/Test

does not know the **way** to go, having been blinded by the darkness

I don't believe most Christians **intentionally** pose as fakes. They have either been handed a **counterfeit** Jesus or **drifted** away from the radical life Jesus calls his followers to imitate. [Frank Powell](#)

Our **lack** of "other" love might be a **symptom** hiding a deeper issue that we avoid to our own peril

Light/Dark

But for you who fear my name, the **Sun of Righteousness** will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture. [Malachi 4:2](#)

But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and **Christ will give you light.**" [Ephesians 5:13-14](#)

'Look,' they say, 'how they [Christians] love one another' (**for they themselves hate one another**); 'and how they are ready to die for each other' (**for they themselves are readier to kill each other**)."
[Tertullian, Bishop of Carthage, c.ad 160-c.225](#)

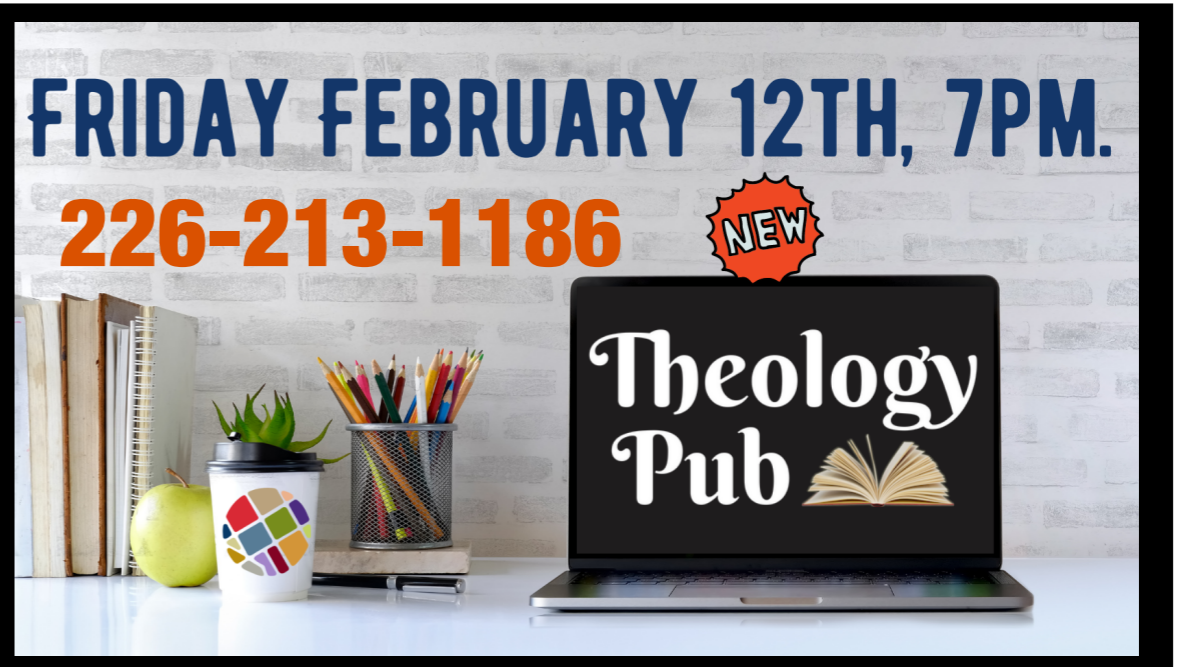
Don't just **pretend** to love others. Really love them. Hate what is **wrong**. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honouring each other. [Romans 12:9-10](#)

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