



Wednesday
20 January

1 John 2:3–17

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Love until it hurts

... whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

1 John 2:6 (ESV)

Prepare

Think back over the last week and consider how different some situations may have been if you had shown more love.

Read

1 John 2:3–17

Explore

John connects his themes of light and love. He refers back to the 'new commandment' Jesus gave his disciples (see John 13:34,35). As we live more and more in the light Jesus brings, so our love grows and darkness begins to disappear.

There are some tough things said here about loving our fellow Christians. It is a clear consequence of becoming a child of God that we have new brothers and sisters in the family of God and we are to love them. How seriously do we take this? John addresses particular groups and manages not to leave anyone out!

What is your church congregation like at loving one another? Is your community free from bitterness, rivalry, gossip, jealousy and strife? What part do you play in stirring up trouble? Before you get offended by this question, please remember we are seeking to be those who live in the light!

We are to resist being seduced by all the world offers. We are to be countercultural by displaying a love in our Christian communities that will take people's breath away.

Respond

'Lord Jesus, help me to be full of your love so that I may love others – those who are easy to love and those I find very hard to love. Amen.'