

First John 2:7-11

First John 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.”

27 [e]	3756 [e]	1785 [e]	2537 [e]	1125 [e]	4771 [e]	235 [e]	1785 [e]	3820 [e]	3739 [e]	2192 [e]	575 [e]
Agapētoi	ouk	entolēn	kainēn	graphō	hymīn	all'	entolēn	palaiān	hēn	eichete	ap'
7 Ἀγαπητοί , οὐκ ἐντολὴν καινὴν γράφω ὑμῖν , ἀλλ' ἐντολὴν παλαιὰν , ἣν εἶχετε ἀπ'											
beloved	not	a commandment	new	I am writing	to you	but	a commandment	old	which	you have had	from
Adj-VMP	Adv	N-AFS	Adj-AFS	V-PIA-1S	PPro-D2P	Conj	N-AFS	Adj-AFS	RelPro-AFS	V-IIA-2P	Prep

746 [e]	3588 [e]	1785 [e]	3588 [e]	3820 [e]	1510 [e]	3588 [e]	3056 [e]	3739 [e]	191 [e]
archēs	hē	entolē	hē	palaiā	estin	ho	logos	hon	ēkousate
ἀρχῆς . ἡ ἐντολὴ ἡ παλαιὰ ἐστὶν ὁ λόγος ὃν ἠκούσατε .									
[the] beginning	the	commandment	-	old	is	the	word	that	you have heard
N-GFS	Art-NFS	N-NFS	Art-NFS	Adj-NFS	V-PIA-3S	Art-NMS	N-NMS	RelPro-AMS	V-AIA-2P

- First of 6x readers are addressed as “dear friends” or *agapetoi* indicates there is a close relationship.
- John reassures his readers they are **NOT** being given some **NEW** command, information, revelation, insight, teaching, etc.
- John indicates he is talking about “old” information. It is teaching they have had since the beginning. What is this “old command”? What is the “beginning”?
 - Old Command – this is the original Christian message (the Gospel they heard and believed; the apostolic teaching that originated from Jesus’ teaching.) It included:
 - Belief in God’s Son, Jesus Christ
 - According to 3:23 it included the instruction to do what Jesus commanded.
 - As John continues, it becomes clear that this command included the obligation to love.
 - Beginning – this is the time the readers first heard (and believed) the message.

First John 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.”

3825 [e]	1785 [e]	2537 [e]	1125 [e]	4771 [e]	3739 [e]	1510 [e]	227 [e]	1722 [e]	846 [e]	2532 [e]	1722 [e]	4771 [e]	3754 [e]	3588 [e]
palin	entolēn	kainēn	graphō	hymīn	ho	estin	alēthes	en	autō	kai	en	hymīn	hoti	hē
8 πάλιν ἐντολὴν καινὴν γράφω ὑμῖν , ὃ ἐστὶν ἀληθὲς ἐν αὐτῷ καὶ ἐν ὑμῖν , ὅτι ἡ														
Again	a commandment	new	I am writing	to you	which	is	TRUE	in	him	and	in	you	because	the
Adv	N-AFS	Adj-AFS	V-PIA-1S	PPro-D2P	RelPro-NNS	V-PIA-3S	Adj-NNS	Prep	PPro-DM3S	Conj	Prep	PPro-D2P	Conj	Art-NFS

4653 [e]	3855 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	5457 [e]	3588 [e]	228 [e]	2235 [e]	5316 [e]
skotia	paragetai	kai	to	phōs	to	alēthinon	ēdē	phainei
σκοτία παράγεται , καὶ τὸ φῶς τὸ ἀληθινὸν ἤδη φαίνει .								
darkness	is passing away	and	the	light	-	TRUE	already	shines
N-NFS	V-PIP-3S	Conj	Art-NNS	N-NNS	Art-NNS	Adj-NNS	Adv	V-PIA-3S

- Obviously 2:8 sounds like a contradiction to 2:7.
- The apparent contradiction is resolved when we recognize that John is referring to the “new command” that was given the disciples as Jesus was ending his earthly ministry and the disciples were beginning their commission.

- So, the *NEW command* of 30 AD was given to John's readers at the beginning of their entrance into fellowship with the Father and the Son sometime between 55-70 (?) AD which makes it the OLD command in 85-90 AD when John is writing this letter.
- This "new command" which is now the "old command" is most likely found in John 13:34:
 - "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." – John 13:34
- Point: John's teaching is not some novel ideology or philosophy being added to the Christian teaching which is what the false teachers were teaching and those leaving the apostolic church doctrine were believing.
- "**which is true in him and in you.**" - The "truth" of this "new command" (that is now an "old command") is seen:
 - In the life of Jesus
 - In the life of believers
- Like all of the Word of God there is transforming, sanctifying power that comes from hearing and believing that Word.
- Point: The false teacher's words were not producing a sanctifying change in the lives of their followers. Their words were vain and powerless.
- The word "**true**" is the Greek word *alethes* which means:
 - in the papyri:
 - "true" and not false when referring to statements of facts
 - "truthful" and not deceitful when referring to people
 - In the NT it is means the same as above when it appears most of the time.
 - In John 6:55, Acts 12:9 and 1 Peter 5:12 *alethes* means "real" or "genuine" in the context:
 - So, here in First John it could easily mean "truly expressed" as in:
 - So, the words "which is true in him and in you" could be saying that this new command (which is now an old command) is "truly expressed in Jesus and now in you!"
 - John is telling his readers that he is still teaching the same Truth. And, that Truth is"
 - Believed by his "dear children"
 - Producing genuine spiritual growth in their lives
 - John is convinced that the secessionists (definition of **secessionist** = a person who favors formal withdrawal from membership of a federation or body, especially a political state.) are:
 - Believing false doctrine and deception
 - NOT producing the fruit of righteousness
 - Not being sanctified
 - Not having fellowship with God and Jesus

First John 2:9 – “Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness.”

3588 [e]	3004 [e]	1722 [e]	3588 [e]	5457 [e]	1510 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	80 [e]	846 [e]	3404 [e]	1722 [e]	3588 [e]	4653 [e]	1510 [e]	2193 [e]	
HO	legōn	en	tō	phōti	einai	kai	ton	adelphon	autou	misōn	en	tē	skotia	estin	heōs	
9	Ὁ	λέγων	ἐν	τῷ	φωτὶ	εἶναι	, και	τὸν	ἀδελφὸν	αὐτοῦ	μισῶν	, ἐν	τῇ	σκοτία	ἐστὶν	ἕως
The [one]	claiming	in	the	light	to be	and	the	brother	of him	hating	in	the	darkness	is	even until	
Art-NMS	V-PPA-NMS	Prep	Art-DNS	N-DNS	V-PNA	Conj	Art-AMS	N-AMS	PPro-GM3S	V-PPA-NMS	Prep	Art-DFS	N-DFS	V-PIA-3S	Prep	

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Adv

First John 2:10 – “Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him^(b) there is no cause for stumbling. ”

3588 [e]	25 [e]	3588 [e]	80 [e]	846 [e]	1722 [e]	3588 [e]	5457 [e]	3306 [e]	2532 [e]	4625 [e]	1722 [e]	846 [e]	3756 [e]	
ho	agapōn	ton	adelphon	autou	en	tō	phōti	menei	kai	skandalon	en	autō	ouk	
10	ὁ	ἀγαπῶν	τὸν	ἀδελφὸν	αὐτοῦ	, ἐν	τῷ	φωτὶ	μένει	, και	σκάνδαλον	ἐν	αὐτῷ	οὐκ
The [one]	loving	the	brother	of him	in	the	light	abides	and	cause for stumbling	in	him	not	
Art-NMS	V-PPA-NMS	Art-AMS	N-AMS	PPro-GM3S	Prep	Art-DNS	N-DNS	V-PIA-3S	Conj	N-NNS	Prep	PPro-DM3S	Adv	

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First John 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.”

3588 [e]	1161 [e]	3404 [e]	3588 [e]	80 [e]	846 [e]	1722 [e]	3588 [e]	4653 [e]	1510 [e]	2532 [e]	1722 [e]	3588 [e]	4653 [e]	4043 [e]	
ho	de	misōn	ton	adelphon	autou	en	tē	skotia	estin	kai	en	tē	skotia	peripatei	
11	ὁ	δὲ	μισῶν	τὸν	ἀδελφὸν	αὐτοῦ	, ἐν	τῇ	σκοτία	ἐστὶν	, και	ἐν	τῇ	σκοτία	περιπατεῖ ;
The [one]	however	hating	the	brother	of him	in	the	darkness	is	and	in	the	darkness	walks	
Art-NMS	Conj	V-PPA-NMS	Art-AMS	N-AMS	PPro-GM3S	Prep	Art-DFS	N-DFS	V-PIA-3S	Conj	Prep	Art-DFS	N-DFS	V-PIA-3S	

2532 [e]	3756 [e]	1492 [e]	4225 [e]	5217 [e]	3754 [e]	3588 [e]	4653 [e]	5186 [e]	3588 [e]	3788 [e]	846 [e]
kai	ouk	oiden	rou	hypagei	hoti	hē	skotia	etyphlōsen	tous	ophthalmous	autou
καὶ	οὐκ	οἶδεν	ποῦ	ὑπάγει	, ὅτι	ἡ	σκοτία	ἐτύφλωσεν	τοὺς	ὀφθαλμοὺς	αὐτοῦ .
and	not	knows	where	he is going	because	the	darkness	has blinded	the	eyes	of him
Conj	Adv	V-RIA-3S	Adv	V-PIA-3S	Conj	Art-NFS	N-NFS	V-AIA-3S	Art-AMP	N-AMP	PPro-GM3S