Intro: 5 And now I ask you, dear lady— not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning— that we love one another. 6 And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

1. That we may know the truth

2. That we may know His love

• John is directing this to the church rather than the individual. We can apply this to the church in general. When I say the church, I am not thinking of any local church or any denomination, but the body of believers that’s in Christ. This small book has been vital for the church down through the centuries, and what is written here has been very positive in the life of the church. It may be small but it pacts a powerful punch for us today.

I. Loving each other is nothing new – 5 And now I ask you, dear lady— not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning— that we love one another.

a. We love others who don’t love us

• The church, at this time, was going through persecutions. There were problems on the inside as false teachers were trying to distort Jesus as being just a mere man. So, hatred for God’s lady was at its peak. And here John is saying that we should love her and those associated with her.

° 43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, Matthew 5:43, 44

b. Christians loving one another is a constant N. T. doctrine

• The message announced from God requires believers to love their brothers and sisters in God’s family. The beginning refers to the time Jesus first told his disciples to love one another.

° 11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 1 John 3:11

c. God’s lady is called to a higher love

• We have listed before the different types of love in the N.T. Today’s world uses the word love for everything you like. You can love your dog or love your wife. While they have a different type of love the same word is being used. God has called the Church to take a higher standard of love and love like he loves, and the love is called “agape” kind of love. This is the greatest love a man can give.

° 13 Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 1:13

II. Love is a behavior taught – 6 And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

• True love is a gift of God, but notice what John said the Church is to be doing, walking, loving, and obeying God. These are behaviors that need to be taught on how to be more affective, more disciple like, and how to love deeper and better than before. Let’s read 1Cor. 13:4-6, 13 to show us how we should love as a Church.

° 4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends. 13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:4-13

a. Love is patient

• We are to be patient with other people.

b. Love is kind

• We are courteous, helpful, showing favor to others and not evil.

c. Love is not jealous

• We don’t have feelings against someone else’s success.

d. Love does not boast about itself

• We don’t brag, seek recognition, honor, or applause from others. Love recognizes others before themselves.

e. Love is not arrogant

• We do not think or act as though we are better than someone else. Love is modest and humble.

f. Love is not rude

• Love will not shame someone or disgrace someone, public or private. Love behaves and treats all people with respect and honor.

g. Love is not selfish

• We do not insist on our way as the only way to do things.

h. Love is not easily provoked

• We are not easily angered, or we don’t take offence too quickly.

i. Love resents in wrongdoing

• We don’t hold a grudge for wrong that we suffer at the hands of another.

j. Love does not rejoice is sin

• We don’t cheer sin on, excuse it as being a problem, or rejoice in its popularity.

k. Love rejoice in the truth

• We rejoice in the truth that has set us free from sin.

l. Love bears the load of others

• We bear each other’s burdens, share in each other’s problems, and pray for each other’s pain.

m. Love is trusting

• We are quick to believe the best in someone. We immediately accepting forgiveness when they ask for it.

n. Love never gives up hoping

• We know that good will soon or later triumph and we will gain victory. We refuse to accept failure as an opposition. It will always hope for the best and work for success rather than failure.

o. Love withstand the attack of her enemies

• We have been knocked down, bruised and battered; we have been kicked, laughed at, and even demoted to non-essential. But we are still here.