

### 1st John # 33

**“Is it a New Command or an Old One?” *1st John 2:7-8; 2nd Peter 1:3-9***

**The house is our soul structure; the building material is the Word of God and the power or energy needed to build the house is processed biblical truth or wisdom.**

God supplies everything except one ingredient and that’s our faith response or our willingness to participate in process.

**The ultimate is sharing the happiness of God which begins with understanding His grace where we begin to respond in reciprocal love for God.**

This is when our concentration or focus is on Jesus Christ and not on self, others, things or circumstances; so this is living our lives as Jesus did, by learning as He learned, walking as He walked, serving as He served and loving as He did.

**The more we learn about the promise of God's grace, the more we know who and what Jesus Christ is and that develops our personal love for God like nothing else.**

Then we understand the cross and what real love is all about and when we realize all that Jesus did for us, He becomes the role-model for our thinking and actions but it’s a protracted process that requires supernatural spiritual skills.

**Now that we’re in union with God the Son, God the Father loves us just as He loves His Son, so John recognizes that the Father loves all who are in union with Jesus Christ.**

John is also saying, “I love you because you are positive to biblical truth” and John’s integrity is so great that he refers to these people as dear friends or beloved brethren, a term that always refers to the royal family of God with emphasis on positional truth, eternal security and the fact that we’re still alive in the devil’s world and God has a mission for us.

*What John’s about to say is not something they’re hearing for the first time which emphasizes the importance of repetition or inculcation.*

**The command to live and function in the plan of God has been clearly communicated to the royal family and will continue in every generation until the Church Age is terminated by the resurrection of the Church at the Rapture.**

This command concerns only the royal family of God; it has no reference to OT saints, Tribulational saints or even to Millennial saints.

*Actually, the old command is the same as the new command; it’s God’s command to live and function inside the plan of God and not get involved in Satan’s cosmic system.*

**Every generation has a fair chance to hear but only the believer who is positive toward the Word through his own motivation, virtue and humility by his own decisions, lives and functions inside the plan of God.**

Repetition in Bible study is important and shouldn’t be regarded as drudgery but should be the object of intense concentration under the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

*To reject repetition is to lose momentum.*

There is no substitute for concentration under the ministry of the Holy Spirit during repetition in Bible teaching.

**John is basically saying that only Jesus Christ during His incarnation and only Church Age believers or royal family of God who live and function in the plan of God, can fulfil the old and new command.**

It's old and new for two different reasons: It's old because it was first given to Jesus Christ during His incarnation and it's new because it's given to the royal family of God during every generation of the Church Age.

*It's old because it began with the Church Age and it's new because every positive believer in every generation of the Church Age will have a chance to take advantage of the greatest opportunity in all of history.*

**The darkness is the influence of the cosmic system on believers prior to salvation; an influence which continues unless the believer obeys the commands of God.**

Unbelievers are said to be walking in darkness apart from a few who become involved in God's establishment laws.

*The influence of darkness is only passing away for believers who continue to live and function in the plan of God with entry and re-entry through the filling of the Holy Spirit.*

The believer who lives and functions inside the plan of God continues his momentum to where his old ideas, thoughts, priorities and beliefs he had related to Satan's cosmic system when he first believed in Christ have now disappeared.