

“I am writing to remind you, dear friends, that we should love one another. This is not a new commandment, but one we have had from the beginning.” 2 John 1:5 NLT

lectio // 2 John 1:1-6

After spending some time in 1 John, and having John repeat himself several times, this phrase and reminder seems obsessive! I don't mind his passion about this idea of love and the new commandment. It just seems as though, a few millennia later, the church isn't interested in this idea at all! We clearly went for the external, law-obsessed dashboard board indicators of our discipleship. It became all about the way we looked, where we frequented, how often we attended church events and playing the sunday-centric role of “appearing” good for one day of the week - maybe three days if you count mid-week and a prayer meeting. Not everyone became unloving towards each other, not at all. There were and are plenty of folks who continued to be & do like Jesus, thus humbly loving and serving others. However, there were enough folks who made it known that their brand of spirituality was NOT other focused. I am seeing a return to this “love each other” style of church because we've all been through a pandemic tumble cycle. We've all been beat up and have dropped the whole “look at me” facade for a less hubris experience at church. Some churches haven't met together for a whole year! We began meeting outdoors for the past six months and it helped maintain a core of fellowship for us. Other churches continued meeting in homes or strictly online. We've had a year to form new habits, and many folks LIKE the new and don't want to go back to Sundays as usual. We've all figured out how important it is to do what John is so passionate about - LOVE each other and... LOVE our neighbors! I want John's “reminder” to remain!

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Dad,

I LOVE this reminder! You know this because you've been speaking to me about the one another's for over twenty years. And, at the core of all them is LOVE. Help me, Oh God. Help us to flip the word back to its original intent and design to reflect not just your definition, but your way of living the Kingdom Life here and now on earth. Thank you for John the elder and his reminders to return to the most powerful force of change in the universe- your love!

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root