

Eternal Life

A Study of 1 John

What do you think?

Actions speak louder than words

- Why do people say / believe that?
- Does that apply to our walk with God?

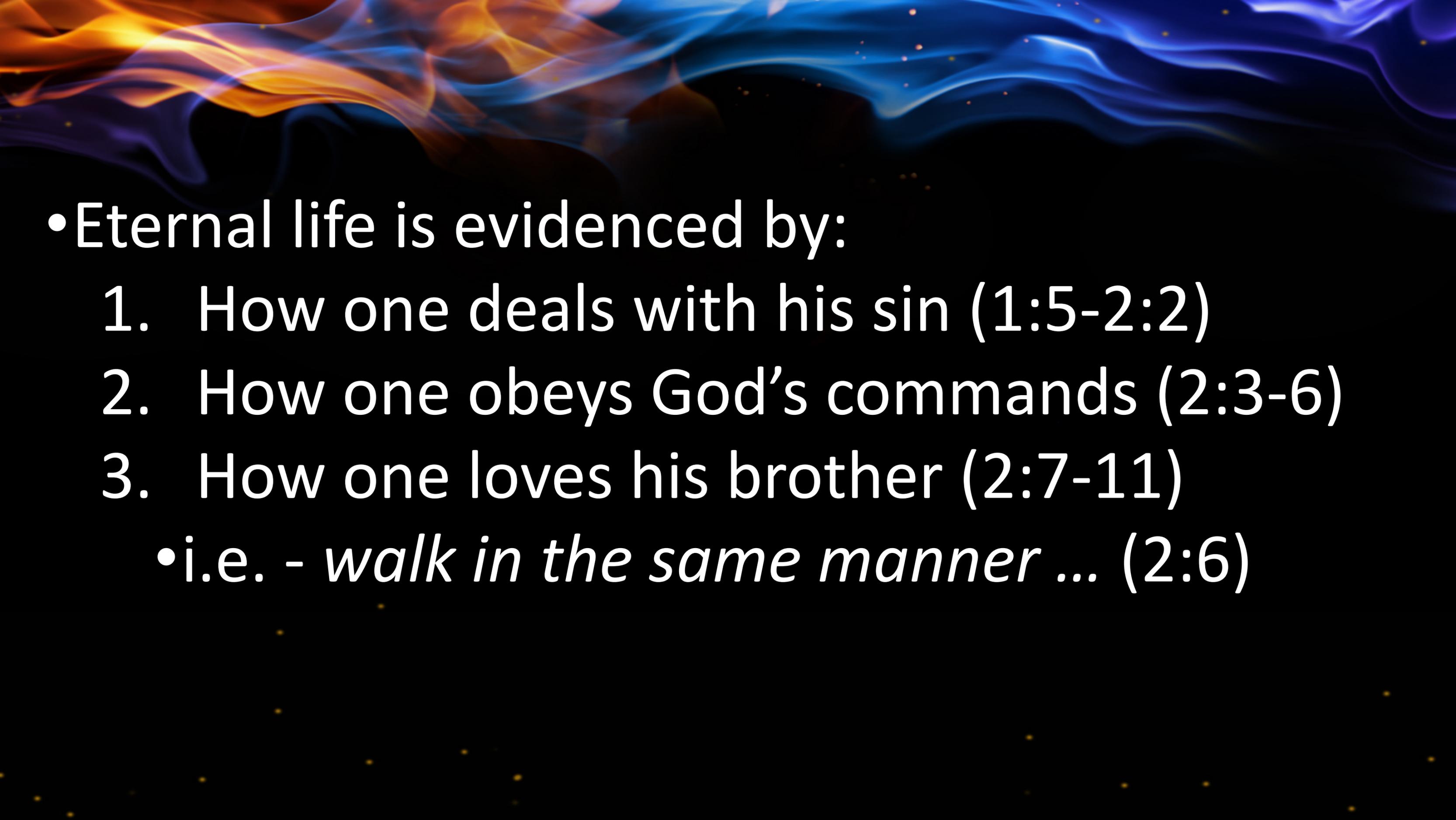
**“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’
and do not do what I say?”**

Luke 6:46

1 John

- Eternal life is evidenced by:
 1. How one deals with his sin (1:5-2:2)
 - Walking in *the Light* or *darkness*? (1:5-7)
 - Does he *own* his sin? (1:8, 10)
 - Does he confess his sin? (1:9)
 - Is he turning away from sin? (2:1)

- Eternal life is evidenced by:
 1. How one deals with his sin (1:5-2:2)
 2. How one obeys God's commands (2:3-6)
 - *Knowing* means *doing* (2:3-4)
 - *Loving* means *obeying* (2:5)
 - *Abiding* means *imitating* (2:6)
 - *Imitating* means *loving as He loves* (3:16)

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- Eternal life is evidenced by:
 1. How one deals with his sin (1:5-2:2)
 2. How one obeys God's commands (2:3-6)
 3. How one loves his brother (2:7-11)
 - i.e. - *walk in the same manner ... (2:6)*

1 John 2:7-11

- *“No Neutral”*
- *Social Test: Do You Love Your Brother?*
 1. New vs Old
 2. Hate vs Love
 3. Darkness vs Light

New vs Old

- What does John mean by *new* and *old*?
 - *New* (7) -> *novel, strange* (cf. Acts 17:19-21)
 - *Old* -> it's been around for a long time
 - *You have had it from when you first heard the truth*
 - *I am not writing a **different** command but the same one you've had all along*

New vs Old

- What does John mean by *new* and *old*?
 - *New* (8) -> greater emphasis/understanding
 - “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:39; Lev. 19:18)
 - “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.” (John 8:34; cf. John 13:12-17)

New vs Old

- What does John mean by *new* and *old*?
 - *New* (8) -> greater emphasis/understanding
 - *Which* -> the *newness* of the old command
 - This *newness* was true in Jesus and seen in His self-sacrificing love
 - “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”
(John 15:13)

New vs Old

- What does John mean by *new* and *old*?
 - *New* (8) -> greater emphasis/understanding
 - *Which* -> the *newness* of the old command
 - This *newness* is in us as we live as He lived
 - *The darkness* (unholiness) is passing away and in its place shines God's genuine *Light* of holiness

New vs Old

- The more we obey Jesus' command to love, the more we will understand and experience the relevance and superiority of that command
- The more we love, the more we will want to

Hate vs Love

- “The one who **says** he is in the Light and yet **hates** his brother” (9)
 - What should we believe: what he **says** or what he **does**?
 - *Walking in the Light* => fellowship (1:7)
 - Hatred is incompatible w/ *Light* & fellowship

What does John mean by *hate*?

Hate vs Love

- *Hate* seems pretty harsh!
 - Not just the *opposite* of love but also the *withholding* of love
 - If you are not actively loving, you are hating
 - Cf. “He who is not with Me is against Me” (Luke 11:23) – i.e. - *no neutral*

HATE

indifference

LOVE

Hate vs Love

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HATE

LOVE

Hate vs Love

- The claim to be in the *Light* must be backed up by real love for the brethren
 - Loving like Jesus: in holiness; in the truth; selfless, not self-serving (cf. Phil. 2:3-8)
 - See Eph. 5:1-21
- Otherwise you are still in *darkness*: wickedness, selfishness, *the flesh* (see 1 John 3:14)

Hate vs Love

- The one who **loves** his brother
 - Contrast between **saying** and **doing** (cf. 3:18)
 - Is love simply an *emotional feeling*?
 - Can God command us to have a *feeling*?
 - Is Jesus' love for us only a *feeling*? (see Eph. 5:25-33)

Hate vs Love

- According to Donald W. Burdick:
 - *Agape* - “a love in which the mind analyzes and the will chooses the object to be loved.”
 - “a deliberate, free act that is the decision of the subject rather than the result of unbidden, overpowering emotion.”
 - “involves the whole man, emotions, intellect, and will.”

Hate vs Love

- “Because the intellect and the will are primarily involved in *agape*, God can command love for one another. In obedience to God’s command and enabled by His Spirit, the mind and will are then set to love the brother in Christ, not because his attractiveness calls forth love, but simply because one chooses to love him.”

(Donald W. Burdick)

Hate vs Love

- Love is “not simply a wave of emotion; it is a deliberate conviction of the mind issuing in a deliberate policy of the life.” (William Barclay)
- Biblical *agape* love:
 - Know *the truth* (intellect)
 - Choose to obey God -> act on His truth (will)
 - Enjoy fellowship with God & others (emotion)

Darkness vs Light

- The one who **loves** his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him
 - *Abide – take up permanent residence*
 - God's *Light* is all about love, so to continually love is to reside in His *Light*
 - We cannot love and sin at the same time, so if we are loving we will not *stumble* (cf. 2:1)

Darkness vs Light

- In contrast, the one who hates his brother:
 1. Is in the darkness – his sphere of life
 - Loving indicates you are in the Light; **not** loving indicates you are still in the darkness
 2. Walks in the darkness – his rule of conduct
 - SELF, vengeful, jealous, manipulative, etc.
 - Bitterness, strife, alienation (Gal. 5:19-21)

Darkness vs Light

- In contrast, the one who hates his brother:
 3. Does not know where he is going – his end
 - See John 12:35-50 (*35)
 - He is *lost in the dark*
 - No purpose to life; no point in living
 - The longer we live in the dark, the less we will be able to see (cf. Isa. 6:10)

Summary

- God is *Light* (1:5)
 - *Walking in the Light* (1:6-7) means:
 1. Turning away from sin (1:8-2:2)
 2. Pursuing obedient love (2:3-11)
 - For God: keep His commandments (2:3-6)
 - For brothers: keep His commandment (2:7-11; cf. John 8:34)

REAL LIFE

So What?

- God is constantly working to teach us how to love more and love better (cf. Phil. 1:9-11)
 - He calls us into community with others who do not deserve our love (cf. Rom. 5:6-8)
 - Our love for others should not be given based on what they deserve but on the love we've been given (1 John 3:16; 4:7-8)

So What?

- What *unlovely* person(s) has He put in your life?
 - Is your love focused on you or the other(s)?
 - Are you *whining* or *serving*?
 - What *fruit* comes from your efforts? (see Gal. 5:19-23)

**The one who loves abides in the light
and finds *real life***