

# The Light is Shining

Riverside Youth Devotional

May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## 1 John 2:7-8

*<sup>7</sup>Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment—to love one another—is the same message you heard before. <sup>8</sup>Yet it is also new. Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, and you also are living it. For the darkness is disappearing, and the true light is already shining.*

From the very beginning, God has called us to love one another. We talk about this a lot because scripture talks about this a lot too. Just like it says in this passage here, it is the same message we have heard before.... yet it is also new.

“Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, and you also are living it.” Scripture tells us that God is Love, and we see that love so perfectly clear in Jesus. Everything Jesus did came from a place of love. Even his anger was born out of love- when he flipped tables in the temple it was because people were being swindled and taken advantage of in God’s house.

God tends to have a special heart for those who are weak, vulnerable, poor, and marginalized. It is often in our own weakness that God’s grace and love has a chance to shine the brightest. The same can be said of the love we share for others. Mission trips, volunteer work, and other service opportunities all showcase the love we have for our fellow person as a light within the darkness.

Right now, even though you may be young, healthy, and strong, you are staying home and away from others to protect our community’s most vulnerable citizens. That is a noble and Christian act of love.

Because of this love, the darkness is slowly but surely disappearing and the light is already shining. We are still in the thick of it, but things are getting better every day. This time will not last forever, and the more love we can show by staying home, wearing a mask, and washing our hands now- the brighter the light will continue to shine.

Where are you seeing the light today?

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What are you currently looking forward to?

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My prayer for you today comes from 1 John 4:7

*Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.*