

The First Epistle of John

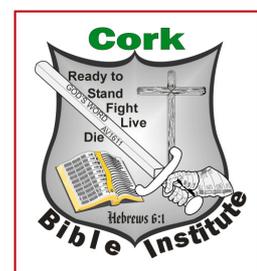
Things We Are Sure Of



A Verse by Verse Study of the First Epistle of John

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To the Students of the Cork Bible Institute:

To earn the full credit for this class you will have to accomplish the following course requirements:

Course Requirements

1. Fill in the notes from the Student Edition
2. Take the Chapter Exams at the completion of every chapter taught in the Church evening meetings, and turn in the exam by the upcoming Wednesday evening.
3. Read through First john 5 times
4. Take the Final Exam

Introduction to First John

Things We Are Sure Of

I. Introduction

A. Author

1. 1, 2, and 3 John have from earliest times been attributed to **John** the apostle, who also wrote the fourth and final gospel, known simple as the Gospel of John.
2. John became known as the “beloved apostle”, using the word “love” 46 times in this epistle.
3. But John was not always the apostle of love. His life is an example of how Jesus can transform anyone’s life. Earlier in John’s life we see him being:
 - a. Judgmental. (Luke 9:54)
 - b. Prejudiced and exclusive. (Mark 9:38)
 - c. Proudful and ambitious. (Mark 10:35-37)
4. Only later did he become known as the beloved apostle — Jesus had a lot of work to do with him. That gives me hope.
5. John also wrote one other Book... the Book of the Revelation!



B. Date of Writing: First John was likely written around A.D. 95.

1. At this time, Jerusalem has been destroyed
2. Nero has had the Apostle Paul beheaded
3. All of the apostles have died
4. Only John is left of the original apostles, and he is living in a penal (prison) colony of an island called Patmos.
5. But Christianity had spread beyond India, and into China, and throughout Europe!

C. Purpose of Writing:

1. John states four reasons for writing this letter
 - a. That your joy may be full (1:4). Joy is not the same as happiness. It’s easy to make the mistake of equating the two. Happiness is temporary and subject to our conditions. Joy is something that grows out of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives (Gal 5:22).
 - b. Freedom from sin (2:1). Sin does not rule in the life of the believer. Only by our yielding to it, does it obtain power over us. We can overcome sin, and temptation on a moment by moment basis.
 - c. Warnings of false teachers (2:26). Even this early in church history we see corrupt teaching of the word of God. Just because someone steps into a pulpit on Sunday does not give them the ability to correctly teach the Word of God.
 - d. Assurance of eternal life (5:13). It is possible to **know** you have eternal life here and now and that you will for sure will spend it in heaven. John lists three tests of your Christianity:
 - 1) Do you seek to keep God’s commandments now that you are saved (2:3-5)?
 - 2) Do you love your brother (3:14)?
 - 3) And do you sense God’s Holy Spirit at work in your life (3:24, 4:13)?
2. Concerning the False teachers, at the time John writes, a group called the **Gnostics** (the secret knowers – Da Vinci Code, etc) had infiltrated the church; John writes in part to set the record straight about the Gospel.

- a. The Gnostics believed they possessed hidden knowledge and you needed to be part of their group to truly understand the scriptures and to know “THE truth” — similar to cults of today who say you need the Bible AND their books.
 - 1) That is rubbish! All you need is the Bible. Anytime someone says to understand the Bible you need other books (from their group at a small cost) you can be sure they are feeding you lies and deceit.
 - 2) The Holy Spirit teaches ALL things (John 14:26, 16:13) — not some things and you need someone else to finish the job.
 - 3) This is not to imply we don’t need teachers — we do and teaching is one of the gifts of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:11). However, any honest teacher will insist (even beg) you read the Bible for yourself. A dishonest teacher will try and keep you from the Bible. It’s important for anyone who claims to be a teacher of God’s word to remember the words of James (James 3:1) — teachers are held accountable before God for their teaching of God’s word.
 - b. As a religious philosophy, it held that **matter is evil** and that **the invisible (spirit) is good**.
 - c. It’s interesting to note the Gnostics did not question Jesus’ deity, they mainly questioned His humanity; whether He was real and tangible, or just an apparition, or ghost.
 - 1) Since they taught all matter is evil, Jesus really didn’t have a body like yours and mine; people have drawn pictures of him walking along the beach and not leaving any footprints. In that time, everyone knew Jesus had supernatural power, and had done many impossible things — many people witnessed His miracles; it would take a crazy person to deny their occurrence. Today, of course, we have the “Jesus seminar” people who deny Jesus’ deity, and make Him out to be only a man, instead of denying His humanity like these guys did.
 - 2) Gnostics were spiritists, animists, who believed only in invisible spirits and souls. That we are all trapped in our mortal bodies, but that one day we will evolve (if we are successful) BACK into “the godhead” (Scientology) from whence we came (Mormonism).
 - 3) Did you ever hear of “Madonna” and her kabala religion? It’s Gnosticism! A secret pathway to knowledge and salvation!
 - 4) Mysticism is a secret path to salvation – Catholicism (Monks, Hermits, etc).
 - 5) Docetism, teaches that the human Jesus was only a ghost, not really physical
 - 6) Cerinthus took the teaching of pagan Gnosticism and mixed them with Christianity. He taught that Jesus was born of Joseph and Mary and only became the "Christ" at the time of his baptism. But at the crucifixion, the Christ part departed leaving only the human Jesus to die. There was no resurrection of the physical dead body of Jesus. Christ was an Aeon (a created god) who made the earth and could not die. Much of his false doctrine can still be seen in the teachings of the Jehovah's Witnesses, and in the Muslims.
 - d. In any event, the Gnostics led people into two errors.
 - 1) A form of asceticism — that denying yourself, and self-sacrifice is the path to heaven.
 - 2) Your body’s needs don’t matter (since it is evil). So, don’t marry, don’t have children, don’t eat right, don’t soul-win, don’t enjoy life at all, and ONLY worry about appeasing spiritual beings who torment them, and never love them!
3. John writes to combat this false teaching, but doesn’t directly assault their beliefs. Rather, John just restates the truth, over and over! As the last apostle alive John possessed considerable apostolic authority. He walked with Jesus, ate with Jesus, and was directly taught by Jesus. Thus John doesn’t have to waste time establishing his authority, everyone knew his authority — he was an eyewitness to the life of Jesus.

II. Brief Summary:

A. *False spiritual teachers were a big problem in the early church.*

1. Because there was not a complete New Testament that believers could refer to, many churches fell prey to pretenders who taught their own ideas and advanced themselves as the leaders.
2. John wrote this letter to set the record straight on some important issues, particularly concerning the true character and identity of Jesus Christ.

B. Because this letter is about the basics of **confidence** in Christ, it helps his readers reflect honestly on their faith. It helps them answer the question, Are we true believers?

1. John told them that they could tell by looking at their actions
2. If they consistently loved one another, that was evidence of God's presence in their lives.
3. But if they bickered and fought all the time or were selfish and did not look out for one another, they were betraying that they, in fact, did not know God.
4. That did not mean they had to be sinlessly perfect. In fact, John also recognized that believing involved regularly admitting our sins and seeking God's forgiveness.
5. Depending on God for cleansing from guilt, along with admitting our wrongs against others and making amends, was another important part of getting to know God.

C. There are several key words that are repeated throughout this book:

1. "**Hath**" – 69 times: something we HAVE, possess, not hope for
2. "**Knowledge**" - occurring at least 13 times in the Book of 1 John.
3. "**Love**" – 46 times
4. "**Sin**" – 28
5. "**World**" – 23

III. Biblical Contrasts in First John:

- A. Light vs. Darkness (1:5-2:11).
- B. The Father vs. The World (2:12-17).
- C. Jesus Christ vs. Antichrist (2:18-28).
- D. Good Works vs. Evil Deeds (2:29-3:24)
- E. The Spirit of Truth vs. The Spirit of Error (4:1-6).
- F. Godly Love vs. False Love (4:7-21).
- G. True Believers vs. False Believers (5:1-21).

IV. Practical Application of What We Will Learn

- A. The book of 1 John is a book of **love** and **joy** for the Christian (1John 1:4)
- B. It explains the fellowship we have with other believers and with Jesus Christ.
- C. It differentiates between happiness and joy. True joy is something we all seek. We all want it. 1 John tells us exactly how to get it - by taking the words of God, written by John, and applying them to our daily lives in obedience.
- D. We can have a close, personal, intimate relationship with the living Lord Jesus Christ! The apostle John is a disciple who knew Christ well. He is telling us that we can all have a close intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus is right here with us in both the simple, mundane parts of our lives and in the complex, soul wrenching parts of our lives. John teaches us that Christ is the believer's life. It is only as a person has Christ in his life that he is able to have true fellowship with God.
- E. **Jesus lives HERE!** He lives in our world, not just in heaven! John testifies as a witness of his personal experiences that God became flesh and actually lived among men. That means Christ came here to live with us. Yet, **He still lives with us!** He walks through each and every day of our lives. He is still with us! We need to apply this truth to our lives and live as if Jesus was standing right next to us every second of the day. Put this truth into practice and day by day you will be adding holiness to your life and becoming more and more like Jesus Christ.

V. Next Study, Chapter One

First John Chapter One

We Are Sure About Sin

I. Introduction

- A. **Author** - 1, 2, and 3 John have from earliest times been attributed to **John** the apostle, who also wrote the fourth and final gospel, known simple as the Gospel of John.
- B. **Date of Writing:** First John was likely written around A.D. 95.
- C. **Purpose of Writing:**
 - 1. That your joy may be full (1:4).
 - 2. Freedom from sin (2:1).
 - 3. Warnings of false teachers (2:26).
 - 4. Assurance of eternal life (5:13).
 - 5. Refuting the Gnostics (wrote mystical tales of Jesus, like the Gospel of Judas, etc)
- D. First John is an intensely Practical Book, giving assurance about our relationship with God, and about the established truth of the Gospel, and about the Christian's life
- E. The Apostle John begins Chapter One talking about someone he calls, the Word of Life
 - 1. His Manifestation – the fact that God was here in the flesh
 - 2. His Application – that His coming changed everything, especially when what He taught is acted upon, or applied to our lives
 - 3. His Revelation – there are specific truths that Jesus reveals about God, and John shows them to us

II. Study Lesson

- A. **The Manifestation of the Word of Life** (1:1,2)
 - 1. He was from the beginning - He was there AT the beginning (Micah 5:2; Heb 1:8)
 - 2. He spoke, and we heard Him
 - 3. We saw Him - We gazed upon Him – got a good look at – studied
 - 4. We touched Him, and held Him
 - 5. He was the Word of Life (John 1:1-2, 14; 1Tim 3:16)
 - 6. He was God's Word in flesh (manifested) – see 1 John 5:7
 - 7. He is ETERNAL LIFE, that had dwelt with the godhead, and then became flesh, and dwelt among us!
 - 8. This is PURE deity – no question at all!
- B. **The Application of the Word of Life** (1:3,4)
 - 1. EVERY Book in your Bible has an effect on the reader (Rev 1:3). This one is not different
 - 2. When you start believing and applying the truth of GOD actually coming here, and living here, and then being murdered here, and then rising again... what will happen in your life?
 - a. It is kind of like getting an ointment for a skin burn, and you are told it will sooth the burn, and help the healing
 - b. Well, the same is true with these great truths we are going to be learning in this Book
 - c. When you simply take what we are learning, and start applying them to your doubts, your burdens, your sins, your depression, your bitterness, your feelings of inadequacy, you will then enjoy two great and priceless results:

- 1) Fellowship
 - 2) Joy
 - d. Isn't that what everyone is looking for? Most everyone tries to fake it with money, and pleasure, and entertainment, but they really wish someone loved them unconditionally, and that they could experience joy!
 - e. Well, both are available to the Bible believer!
 3. John is so confident in these truths, he "declares them" preaches them, stands upon them, nothing doubting
 4. He says believers need four things:
 - a. Fellowship with other believers, all the way back to the original "us" of the first century. There is nothing new here, just a bunch of believers who, like those throughout history have simply gotten along as a family!
 - b. Fellowship with God the Father – our Abba
 - c. Fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ – our older brother
 - d. Full Joy – overflowing joy, like being in love, and loved constantly!
 5. And all this from words on a page! All because it is not just words, but the truth about JESUS!
- C. **The Revelation of the Truths of the Word of Life** (1:5-10). Four great truths are presented here in chapter one.
1. ***The Truth About God - God is Light*** (1:5)
 - a. What a great way to express God's divine character. This is where we begin
 - b. He is LIGHT, bright, brighter than the sun (Acts 26:13). He was the Light shining before the sun ever appeared (Gen 1:3; 14-19)
 - c. He is Invariable, Unchanging, Immutable (James 1:17)
 - d. He is Pure, Perfect, not spot at all
 - e. He is all good, and only good
 - f. No darkness at all – emphatic! No sin, no ulterior motive, not untrustworthiness
 - g. GOD is our magnetic North – the basis of what is good, and clean, and right, and true, and beautiful – never evil, hurtful, deceptive, perverse
 - h. Any slightest deviation from that belief, and you are walking in darkness (John 8:12; Eph 5:8; 1John 1:6; 2:11)
 - i. All other lights are either
 - 1) Reflectors of the true light (as Christians are supposed to be)
 - 2) Or frauds, as Satan and his ministers are (2Cor 11:13,14)
 2. ***The Truth About Hypocrisy - Christians Cannot Walk (Live) in Both Realms*** (1Jn 1:6)
 - a. Nobody is a Christian who is following Jesus, and yet continues in sin (Rom 6:1)
 - 1) What does it mean to continue in sin?
 - 2) Knowingly disobeying God's word
 - 3) It is impossible to disobey God and yet not receive chastisement (Heb 12:5-8)
 - b. If you say that you have fellowship...
 - 1) If we talk as if we KNOW Him (Matthew 7:23)
 - 2) If we talk as if we and God are related as family
 - c. And yet you "walks in darkness"...

- 1) Don't KNOW where you are
 - 2) Don't know where you are headed for sure – but you are filled with doubts
 - 3) If you still live in sin's grip instead of the blood's cleansing
- d. Then you are a liar!
- e. AND, you are not living the truth!!!
- 1) Too many people KNOW the truth
 - 2) But they do not obey it, and LIVE IT (Gal 3:1; 5:7; 1Pet 1:22)
- f. The power of TRUTH
- 1) It CAN make you free
 - a) From sin's eternal penalty – hell
 - b) From sin's power – on a moment by moment basis
 - c) From sin's presence – one day in heaven
 - 2) It can give you peace and rest
 - 3) But it must be LIVED, or it is useless to you (James 1:22-25). That's the emphasis of James and 1st John – LIVING as a Christian, not working to become a Christian
- g. Decide which direction you want to walk in.
- h. The power of the truth is a changed life, not just knowledge
- i. Gnostics delight in their knowledge, while Christians delight in a changed life
3. ***The Truth About Forgiveness - Christians Can Live Clean Lives (1:7,9)***
- a. Here are the four conditions set out for a clean conscience, and a right relationship with a perfectly holy God:
- 1) If you will “walk in the light” (1John 1:7)
 - a) Walk in God's light, His revelation
 - b) Seeking to walk with GOD ALMIGHTY (there is a seeming flip back and forth between God the Word and God the Father as if they are one and the same throughout First John)
 - c) And seek to fellowship with GOD
 - 2) And, if you will walk in the power of the blood of Jesus Christ (Heb 9:13,14)
 - a) As the Old Testament believer did after Atonement
 - b) He was able to walk away and go home in the power of the blood that was shed for him
 - c) The blood of Christ completely pays for any and every sin
 - d) Even for sins committed against YOU (Eph 4:31,32)
 - 3) And, if you will Confess – agree, admit, humble yourself before God (1:9). Part of repentance
 - 4) And, if you will Forsake your sin (Prov 28:13) – they must go hand in hand
 - 5) THEN, your conscience will be clean and your relationship with God will be restored
- b. Summary of this truth:
- 1) Just agreeing with God is not enough
 - 2) God calls us to walk in a different direction, out of darkness
 - 3) The moment you confess and forsake any sin, you are clean – even though you might struggle with it in the future!

- 4) To STAY clean,
 - a) You need to start walking in the LIGHT instead of in darkness – DO the truth
 - b) You need a constant “bath” in the eternal blood of Christ
4. ***The Truth About Sin in the Christian*** (1:8)
 - a. We all fall from God’s expectations (1Cor 10:13) – But, we don’t stay down
 - b. We all have sin in us (Rom 7:14-20), but since salvation, there is not sin on us! It can’t send anyone to hell that is saved!
 - c. We all sin (Eccl 7:20)
 - 1) We all act independently of God
 - 2) We all go against God, both knowingly, wilfully, and also ignorantly – it does not matter!
 - d. As we shall see in Chapter 2, but we can’t KEEP sinning and get away with it
 - e. People who teach any of the following are liars, have no truth in them, and make God out to be a LIAR
 - 1) That God can lie and will deceive you and lure you into sin and it is alright! THAT IS A LIE! (James 1:13,14)
 - 2) That people can sin and live that way, and not get in trouble for it (Gal 6:7; Heb 12:6-8)
 - 3) That believers don’t sin – but are now sinlessly perfect, and therefore do nothing wrong ever. At least “true believers” – that is another lie!

III. Conclusion

- A. First John is an intensely Practical Book, giving assurance about our relationship with God, and about the established truth of the Gospel, and about the Christian’s life
- B. The Apostle John begins Chapter One talking about someone he calls, the Word of Life
 1. His Manifestation – the fact that God was here in the flesh
 2. His Application – that His coming changed everything, especially when what He taught is acted upon, or applied to our lives
 3. His Revelation – there are specific truths that Jesus reveals about God, and John shows them to us
- C. What was John Revealing/explaining in chapter one?
 1. ***That God is Light*** (1:5) He is pure, holy, perfect, and right
 2. ***That Christians Cannot Walk (Live) in Both Sin and Righteousness*** (1John 1:6)
 3. ***That Christians Can Live Clean*** (1:7,9)
 4. ***That Christians do sin*** (1:8)
- D. There are a lot of truths in chapter one
- E. Choose one to apply in your life’s situation this evening!

First John Chapter Two

We Are Sure About Victory

I. Introduction (1John 2:1)

- A. Chapter One was written that our joy would be full, just by maintaining a relationship with Jesus Christ – every day walking with Him, worshipping Him!
- B. This chapter gives us the keys to victory over sins in our life.
- C. John writes to Christians, and calls them “little children!” - Young Christians
 - 1. People whom he had led to Christ (1John 3:17,18)
 - 2. Jesus talked this way about HIS disciples (John 13:33; 21:5)
 - 3. Paul talked this way about his converts (1Cor 4:14,15; Gal 4:19)
- D. The goal of the Christian now that they are saved is to have victory over the habit of yielding to sin
 - 1. Sin itself has been taken care of by the cross (2Cor 5:21; 1Pet 2:24). That means:
 - a. The penalty for our sins is paid
 - b. The past of our sins is gone (even our future sins) – all under the blood
 - c. The power of our sins has been unplugged – at least from over our souls
 - 2. But sins still occur
 - a. We have to struggle with our flesh’s tendency to love sin
 - b. We have to struggle with the guilt that will always accompany all sinful acts
 - c. We will have to bear the scars of chastisement because of sins
 - 3. So, the Bible is written to give us moment by moment victory over the pull of sin (Psalm 119:11; 1John 2:1a)
- E. We have been commanded to not sin now that we are forgiven, born again:
 - 1. Titus 2:11-13
 - 2. John 5:14
 - 3. Romans 6:1,2
 - 4. 1Cor 15:34
 - 5. Eph 4:26
 - 6. 1Peter 1:15-19
 - 7. 1Peter 4:1-3
- F. He gives us SIX things that Help us Overcome Sinful Habits
 - 1. The Power of Our Advocate (2:1,2)
 - 2. The Power of Obedience (2:3-6)
 - 3. The Power of Brotherly Love (2:7-11)
 - 4. The Power of Encouragement (2:12-14)
 - 5. The Power of Separation (2:15-17)
 - 6. The Power of Warning – Against False Teachers – Antichrists (2:18-29)

The Power of Our Advocate (2:1,2)

II. Study Lesson

A. The Power of Our Advocate (2:1,2)

1. Jesus is our defence attorney in God's court of justice
2. All Christians WILL sin to some degree (1John 1:8-10). All sin damns. No matter how small (James 2:10)
3. In the Old Testament, sin was taken care of through "Atonement" (Lev 1:1-4) – the covering of the debts we owe God. But those payments were only good for up to one year. They always had to be renewed every year, and throughout the year as you sinned – a lot of work
4. In the New Testament, it is taken cared of by "Propitiation" (1John 2:1). Jesus paid for all sin – propitiation – full payment for ALL the debts I owe God
 - a. John 1:29 – that's a lot of sin!
 - b. 2Cor 5:21
 - c. Romans 8:34
 - d. 1Tim 2:5
 - e. Heb 7:24,25
 - f. Heb 9:24
5. So, here is the scenario:
 - a. God is the righteous Judge
 - b. Satan is the Prosecuting Attorney
 - c. Jesus is the only Defence Attorney
 - d. We are on trial
 - 1) If we are not born again, our case comes up in Rev 20:10-15
 - 2) If we are saved, the devil brings case after case against us as we sin
 - 3) By-the-way, He defends SINNERS, not righteous people
 - e. Satan presents damning evidence against us – he is called the Accuser of the Brethren (Rev 12:10)
 - 1) Before I was saved, I had to struggle with Satan's lies
 - 2) NOW I have to struggle with his truths he tells about me
 - 3) We must understand that Satan has access right now to the throne of God.
 - a) He is not cast out of heaven. Not yet.
 - b) He is cast out of the throne room of God, but he has access to God, and he does something before God. He accuses us.
 - c) He has an army - one third of the angels evidently. At one time, in the middle of the tribulation period, Satan will be cast out from access to heaven completely, and limited to this earth like a wild lion with his armies. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea for the devil is come down. He has access to the earth, but he will be confined to the earth.
 - d) Until then, Satan is busy doing a lot of things, mainly he is busy accusing the brethren.
 - e) You and I had better read the Word of God to understand our adversary. Adolph Hitler wrote a book in 1925 that told exactly how he would conquer Europe. The world said that he would not do it, but he did it just like he wrote it.

- f) God gave us a Book that tells all about our enemy, our adversary! We are not concerned enough to pick up the Book and read about our adversary. Read about our resources. Read how they will attack us. Read how he will use us. Unless we stay in the book and read the book, then the Devil really has a hay-day with us. The accuser of the brethren.
- f. He Attacks In Our Heart And Our Conscience (Zech 3:1-4)
- 1) He really shakes us up. That is his design. We have a picture here in Zechariah 3 of the high priest, the most holy man on earth, and yet the devil is revealing him as filthy (Zech 3:3) – and he was right!
 - 2) Hey! We have no righteousness of our own. Satan's target is to get our hearts and to get our conscience and trouble us and attack us. He attacks us to God, but He moves in on us. He moves in to knock us off. He attacks our Christianity.
- g. He ACCUSES Us
- 1) "So you're a Christian, huh? Oh, you're a Christian? What if everybody knew the kind of life that you lived and the thoughts of your life and what you said or did not do? What if all the Christians...?"
 - 2) He will attack you to make you absolutely shut up. He will make you feel guilty when there are no grounds for feeling guilty. He will make you feel guilty about everything under the sun, and his purpose is to make us shut our mouths. There are Christians today who will not open their mouths because of an assault of Satan upon their life. Everything that they did, Satan accuses them.
 - 3) "You did not pray right. You did not read your Bible right. You did not witness right. You were not bold enough. You were not strong enough. You did not sing that right. You sang that for your own honour and glory. You did that for show. You did this or that."
 - 4) Everything in the world that you do, he accuses you. After a while, he absolutely shuts your mouth. He will get on you. People will have assurance of salvation and set out to knock on doors and begin to deal with people and try to win them to Christ, and then they will have doubts about their salvation when they did not have any doubts before.
 - 5) What is the matter? "Oh, you're a Christian, and you are out here trying to get people saved and knocking on doors. How about yourself? You are not even saved yourself." A person will begin to doubt their own salvation. They do not understand the adversary. What happens? They will quit their soul-winning.
 - 6) The Devil has knocked many a person out of singing for the Lord, witnessing for the Lord, doing anything for the Lord because of the fact the accuser has shut their mouths by his accusations. Does that sound familiar?
 - 7) Before a person sins, he says, "You can get away with it. Sure you can get away with it."
 - 8) And, after you sin, you will never get away with it. You will never fly high again. You will never sing again. You will never be used again.
 - 9) The accuser entices us, and the very moment they do it, the matter of despair. "You have really blown it now. You will never, never, never, again get away with this." He hits our heart and our conscience. He really works us over. That is his task, his job. He is after you.

- h. He Accused us TO GOD.
 - 1) Now, we must understand that when he talks to God about us often times, he does it in the opposite and uses truth.
 - 2) "Hey, did you see Abraham tell that lie down in Egypt? And, did you see him tell that lie again? Hey, you're a holy God. You are supposed to punish sin."
 - 3) "Did you see David when he had that lustful thought? Did you see him when he committed adultery? Did you see him when he planned the death of Uriah? Did you see him kill Uriah? Did you see him cover it all up? Hey, you are supposed to be God. Did you see what he did?"
 - 4) "Hey, God, did you hear Simon Peter when he cursed and denied the Lord? Did you hear him? Hey, he must be judged. Judge him."
 - i. His Intentions are to Produce Guilt and Shame.
 - 1) Guilt and shame is a good thing, if it makes us turn to God when the Spirit of God convicts us, it tenders us. It draws us to God.
 - 2) But, there is satanic conviction. I am positive as I am standing here, many of God's people have confessed things under satanic conviction instead of God's conviction. Satanic conviction leads to despair. It leads to guilt. It turns you inward. You can confess your sins and confess your sins, and it gets darker and darker. You despair. It becomes hopelessness. It leads unbelief and rebellion against God because you do not find any relief in that sort of confession. That is satanic conviction.
 - 3) The Holy Spirit conviction brings relief and points to the remedy. The satanic conviction does not point to the remedy. It points to the action that you did or did not do and leaves you there. If it leaves us with our sin and there is no remedy and no pointing out and no sweet reminder, that is satanic conviction. It will drive you to despair. Unless it has been handled, it has driven some people to suicide to get away from the thoughts of the accuser. He is a cunning foe. He is the accuser of the brethren.
 - 4) God does not intend for you to live with guilt from day to day. When you take it to the Lord and ask for forgiveness, it is under the blood. It is gone forever... "their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."
 - 5) Satan accuses us and uses our sins to drive us to despair. The Lord Jesus in His tenderness drives us back to Him.
 - 6) Satan makes us think that God is through. Has anybody ever felt like God was through with you? How many times have you felt that way?
 - j. Satan goes to Heaven and calls forth that which is obvious. God says, "I don't see it." He hath not beheld iniquity... We are dead in Christ. We are alive in Him. He is our righteousness. His blood is enough! You had better get a hold of that.
 - k. Jesus deflects the evidence with His blood and reminds the Judge that THAT sin is paid for (Heb 10:14; Heb 9:24-26)!
 - l. There is no sin that Satan can bring up that is not paid for!
- 6. Aren't you glad that Jesus intercedes for us now?!
 - 7. Just that fact that Jesus is defending us gives us great power over sin's pull. It NEVER gives us the right to sin, it just gives us the encouragement we need WHEN we sin, to get up, and try again, for His sake!
 - 8. AND! His sacrifice was not just good enough for all who believe, but for the sins of the WHOLE WORLD! See 1John 2:2; 4:14 (Cf 5:19); John 1:29; 1Tim 2:3-6

9. By the way, let me talk about our modern problem of a Critical Spirit
- a. A “critical spirit,” is an obsessive attitude of criticism and fault-finding, which seeks to tear others down — not the same thing as what is sometimes called “constructive criticism.” The only criticism that is ever constructive is that which is expressed in love to “build up,” not to tear down — it is always expressed face-to-face, never behind their back.
 - b. The person with a critical spirit usually dwells on the negative, seeks for flaws rather than good. They’re a complainer, usually always upset, and generally have a problem or a complaint about something. They often have little control over their tongue, their temper, and have tendencies for gossip and slander, which Paul said were sins “worthy of death” (Rom. 1:29-32).
 - c. What Causes a Critical Spirit?
 - 1) Negativeness - A bad attitude and a negative view of life. A person may have un-confessed sin in their life (Rom. 2:1), or may harbour unforgiveness or bitterness toward someone who may have offended them (Heb. 12:15).
 - 2) Insecurity - Criticism is often a subconscious means to “elevate one’s own self image.” By putting others down, they are inwardly trying to feel more important or that “they know more.” Jealousy toward the spiritual victories of others is often the cause of criticism and belittling comments. Popular ministers of the Gospel are often the target of such tactics.
 - 3) Immaturity - Believers must always keep their focus upon Christ and His Word, not man, who will often fail (Heb. 12:2). The young or immature believer who has not progressed very far in their own faith, remain overly dependent upon the faith of those within the body of Christ. Unfortunately, when they begin to notice the flaws in their brethren, subconsciously, this becomes a threat to their own sense of victory. Criticism becomes a reaction of disappointment, because their expectations in others have been crushed.
 - 4) An Un-renewed Mind - Put-downs, making-fun-of, criticism, sarcasm are the world’s ways of reacting to the faults of people. However, as Christians we don’t behave this way. Our thinking and attitude should be renewed by the Word of God, which teaches us to bear the infirmities of the weak, to love, and show compassion and encouragement (Rom. 12:2).
 - 5) The Devil - As we may realize, the Devil specializes in influencing obsessive behaviour. He may use any or all of the above channels, or other techniques, to influence a complaining or critical attitude to stir up turmoil and strife within the body of Christ (Eph. 6:12). We must be on guard that none of us would be used as a tool of the Devil to bring harassment or discouragement upon our brothers or sisters through continual criticism, as the Bible warns us not to “give place” to the Devil (Eph. 4:27). Remember that Satan is specifically called “the accuser of the brethren” (Rev. 12:10). Are you an accuser of the brethren?
 - d. Listen brethren, **DON’T HELP THE DEVIL OUT!** Get rid of the critical spirits that build up in your mind- **DAILY!**

The Power of Obedience (2:3-6)

We have learned now about, The Power of Our Advocate (2:1,2)

B. The Power of Obedience (2:3-6)

1. How does a Christian get power over such a powerful enemy as temptation?
2. Review
 - a. We first learned in this chapter that we have an Advocate – a Defence Attorney
 - 1) He is there because WE DO sin and give in to temptations to sin – YOU ALL DO!
 - 2) He is there to defend us in God’s court of Justice
 - 3) He is there because the devil is GOOD at finding our faults
 - 4) But thank God, Jesus is BETTER!
 - b. We next learned that our Advocate is not just a defence attorney, but our very defence Himself
 - 1) He is the perfect and full payment for all our sins
 - a) Past
 - b) Present sins
 - c) And even ALL future sins
 - 2) AND!!! He is the perfect and full payment for the sins of the WHOLE WORLD by His perfect LIFE, then PERFECT SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH, and His perfect and complete RESURRECTION
 - a) John 1:29
 - b) John 3:16
 - c) 2Cor 5:18,19
 - d) 1Tm 4:10
 - e) Heb 2:9
 - c. This evening, the emphasis is on KNOWING Him. Not just knowing about Him like the devils do (James 2:19), but knowing Him personally, intimately – or else He cannot help you!
3. The Importance of Knowing Jesus – the Pre-requisite to Christian Obedience
 - a. Do you know Jesus? Personally, intimately, or only superficially, symbolically?
 - b. THE greatest accomplishment you will ever attempt is to KNOW Jesus (Jer. 9:23-24; Philp 3:10)
 - c. So, HOW can anyone actually KNOW that they Know such a Being as Jesus, the Son of God?
 - 1) By just the fact that you pray? Or are religious?
 - 2) By just the fact that you are very blessed, or happy?
 - 3) Or, could it not be because we obey Him?!
4. Here is the Test Whether You Know Jesus
 - a. Is there a Change? (2Cor 5:17)
 - 1) Not in feeling, but in desire – A Christian hates sin by nature, and wants to do right – they find it hard, but they desperately want to do things Jesus’ way

- 2) If you don't care how you live, and care not about doing what Christ has commanded, then you are a LIAR and do not know Christ! You are lost and on your way to hell
 - 3) Christians are SUPPOSED to LOVE to OBEY!
 - 4) Obedience means: Living by what Christ has commanded us (Matt 28:20)
 - 5) People who live like there are no limits (no laws) are suspect – just like in society
 - a) Any kind of attitudes
 - b) Any kind of fun
 - c) Any kind of entertainment
 - 6) People who love to live within God's prescribed limits (LAWS) are safe.
 - a) Waiting until marriage, or getting judged by God
 - b) Staying in marriage
 - c) Obeying the laws of the land
 - d) Obeying all that are in authority
 - 7) What were you like before you got saved, and what are you like now?
 - 8) John is not saying that we come to know God by keeping His commandments.
 - 9) We come to know God when we repent of our sins and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, our Advocate Who is the propitiation for our sins. 1:8-2:2
 - 10) Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Eph. 2:8-9
 - 11) Good Works always follow saving faith. Eph. 2:10
- b. Is there a Love? (1John 2:5)
- 1) Love for holiness
 - 2) Love of Jesus
 - 3) Love of prayer and fellowship with God
 - 4) Love for God's word
- c. Do you have a Walk? (1John 2:6)
- 1) Not just an experience, or a dabble, but a LIFE
 - 2) Walking with Jesus is a very Biblical thing to do
 - a) Enoch (Gen 5:22)
 - b) Noah (Gen 6:9)
 - c) Abraham
 - d) David
 - 3) Even many Christians try and obey Jesus without yielding to the enabling power of the Holy Spirit
 - 4) You only get that power when you determine to walk with Him, in prayer, in thought, in action and reaction
- d. Do you have a new birth?
- 1) A day, an hour, a place where you surrendered to Jesus as Saviour?
 - 2) Most people try and obey God, but without the new birth, and fail miserably
 - 3) That's why Jesus said to a very "obedient" religious man named Nicodemus "Ye must be born again!"
- e. All of these work in reverse
- 1) Because of your new birth, you start a new walk with the Son of God who gave Himself for you!

- 2) As you walk with Jesus, praying more about things, talking to Him more, casting more of your cares and burdens upon Him, you will love Him more and more
 - 3) As you love Him more and more, you will obey Him more and more
 - 4) As you obey Him, you will experience more and more changes in your life!
- f. Do you find it hard to obey? Join the club! So God designed it to work this way - We obey Jesus out of love (Jn 14:15). If we find it hard to obey, it is because we are trying to do it without our heart (Dt 10:12). So, start with doing the things that fix the heart, and the “hands” (obedience) will follow!
5. Obedience does the following for the Tempted Christian
- a. It gets answers to prayer (1Jn 3:22,23)
 - b. It pleases God (1Sam 15:22; Jer 26:13)
 - c. It proves our faith (James 2:18)
 - d. It builds our faith (2Pet 1:5) – virtue is living a clean, obedient life
 - e. It enables us to resist the devil (James 4:7)
 - f. It allows us to grow – there is no growth without new obedience. You cannot count on past obedience, and then fall away into sin without it costing you and having you start all over
6. How to Obey Jesus
- a. Completely
 - 1) Pay attention to detail – don’t try and just “generally” obey
 - 2) Do everything we are told to do
 - 3) Jesus deserves our obedience (Luke 6:46; Cf Philp 2:5,6) – not just our worship, or our token religious acts
 - 4) 49 General Commands of Jesus (Bill Gothard)
 - Repent—Matthew 4:17
 - Follow Me—Matthew 4:19
 - Rejoice—Matthew 5:12
 - Let Your Light Shine—Matthew 5:16
 - Honor God’s Law—Matthew 5:17–18
 - Be Reconciled—Matthew 5:24–25
 - Do Not Commit Adultery—Matthew 5:29–30
 - Keep Your Word—Matthew 5:37
 - Go the Second Mile—Matthew 5:38–42
 - Love Your Enemies—Matthew 5:44
 - Be Perfect—Matthew 5:48
 - Practice Secret Disciplines—Matthew 6:1–18
 - Lay Up Treasures—Matthew 6:19–21
 - Seek God’s Kingdom—Matthew 6:33
 - Judge Not—Matthew 7:1
 - Do Not Cast Pearls—Matthew 7:6
 - Ask, Seek, and Knock—Matthew 7:7–8
 - Do Unto Others—Matthew 7:12
 - Choose the Narrow Way—Matthew 7:13–14
 - Beware of False Prophets—Matthew 7:15
 - Pray For Laborers—Matthew 9:38
 - Be Wise as Serpents—Matthew 10:16
 - Fear God, Not Man—Matthew 10:26
 - Hear God’s Voice—Matthew 11:15
 - Take My Yoke—Matthew 11:29
 - Honor Your Parents—Matthew 15:4
 - Beware of Leaven—Matthew 16:6

- Deny Yourself—Luke 9:23
- Despise Not Little Ones—Matthew 18:10
- Go to Offenders—Matthew 18:15
- Beware of Covetousness—Luke 12:15
- Forgive Offenders—Matthew 18:21–22
- Honor Marriage—Matthew 19:6
- Be a Servant—Matthew 20:26–28
- Be a House of Prayer—Matthew 21:13
- Ask in Faith—Matthew 21:21–22
- Bring in the Poor—Luke 14:12–14
- Render to Caesar—Matthew 22:19–21
- Love the Lord—Matthew 22:37–38
- Love Your Neighbor—Matthew 22:39
- Await My Return—Matthew 24:42–44
- Take, Eat, and Drink—Matthew 26:26–27
- Be Born Again—John 3:7
- Keep My Commandments—John 14:15
- Watch and Pray—Matthew 26:41
- Feed My Sheep—John 21:15–16
- Baptize My Disciples—Matthew 28:19
- Receive God’s Power—Luke 24:49
- Make Disciples—Matthew 28:20

b. Consistently

- 1) All day, every day
- 2) Same with driving – you are not supposed to only obey the laws of the road when you feel like it, but always!

c. Comprehensively

- 1) Starting with salvation
- 2) Then all areas of the Christian life – not just the areas you feel like doing
- 3) There is no area that the Christian life does not apply
- 4) Obey Him in your thought life
- 5) When no one is watching you

d. Calmly – without all the stress, and the show for performance sake

- 1) This is not a test. It is a life.
- 2) Just get used to obeying Jesus’ words
- 3) Grow into it
- 4) Let yourself fail, and get forgiven
- 5) Rest in God’s work on you and in you

e. Cheerfully

- 1) The best kind of obedience is cheerful obedience – from the heart (Rom 6:17)
- 2) The worst kind of obedience is “bad attitude” obedience

f. All for Jesus – only for Him (Col 3:23), not to be seen of men, but by your Saviour!

7. Conclusion

The Power of Brotherly Love Over Sin and Temptation (2:7-11)

The Power of Our Advocate (2:1,2)

The Power of Obedience (2:3-6)

C. The Power of Brotherly Love Over Sin and Temptation (2:7-11)

1. How does a Christian get power over such a powerful enemy as temptation?

2. Review

- a. We first learned in this chapter that we have an Advocate – a Defence Attorney
- b. We next learned that our Advocate is not just a defence attorney, but our very defence Himself
- c. The Importance of Knowing Jesus – the Pre-requisite to Christian Obedience
- d. The Importance of Obeying Jesus - Those Who Know God Obey God.
- e. This evening, the emphasis is on Loving the Brethren – loving other Christians! It is a recurring theme in almost every chapter of First John! So you will see this reminding us often! Evidently, it is vital to the Christian's spiritual health!

3. Lesson

a. An Old Commandment Made New (1Jn 2:7-11)

1) Talking about LOVE

2) Not just to love

- a) That is an old commandment (Lev 19:18)
- b) It is actually wired into us – to love things and people. We got all our emotions from God. We were made in God's emotional, and spiritual image (not in His physical image)
- c) We all love things, and people, and pets, and money, and praise

3) But *to love as Christ did* (John 13:34)

- a) The idea is to love more than just self, and the things that are easy to love
- b) But rather to love things like:

- (i) The brethren (1John 3:11; 4:7; 4:21)
- (ii) Your wife (Eph 5:25)
- (iii) Your Church
- (iv) Your life (1Pet 3:10)

c) Our model, our stand is not ourselves – it is Jesus Christ

- (i) How He loved
- (ii) Who He loved
- (iii) How long He keeps loving

d) Jesus gave this command at the “beginning” of the Gospel

- (i) Not to go out and conquer, and control, and crush
- (ii) But to love sinners, and love each other (John 13:35)

e) What exactly is Christ's Love?

- (i) His Love is Forgiving. His love is based on complete and constant forgiveness – AT HIS EXPENSE
- (ii) His love is Firm – strong love rebukes as well as receives and rejoices

- (iii) His love is Fixed – unshakeable – nothing you do can shake it (Rom 8:35-39)
 - (iv) His love is Forever (Eph 2:4-7) – it will only get better and better
 - (v) His love is For OUR spiritual good
- b. Why We Can Actually Love Right (1John 2:8)
- 1) Transformation – We are different by design
 - a) The darkness in our minds (2Cor 4:2-4) better be gone
 - b) No one who tries to love without transformation really loves
 - c) The world mainly lusts, desires, uses, but rarely loves
 - d) Conversion of the heart changes all that (Ezek 11:19)
 - 2) Transition – We have moved
 - a) Seated in heavenly places
 - b) Moved from darkness to light (Col 1:13)
 - 3) Teaching
 - a) Love is written about throughout in the word of God
 - (i) Song of Solomon
 - (ii) Jeremiah – the weeping prophet out of love for Israel
 - (iii) John 3:16
 - b) Should be studied
 - (i) Because we know so little of it
 - (ii) Haven't seen enough of it in its right form
 - (iii) Our children are studying us – and giving up on us because they want to see what love is, and what it can do
 - (iv) So read as many books as you can, challenging how you love
- c. The Testing of Our Love (1Jn 2:9-11)
- 1) Hatred (1Jn 2:9)
 - a) The moment you HATE a Christian is the moment you step out of light and into DARKNESS
 - b) Hatred = Anger, bitterness, unforgiveness
 - c) Hatred first drains your relationship with God
 - d) Then – if it continues - it disproves your relationship with God
 - 2) Abiding Love (1Jn 2:10)
 - a) Just by loving other Christians, you will stay away from sin and temptation more than you would if you were upset with them
 - b) THAT is why the devil keeps everybody upset with everybody else: your mate, your pastor, your children, your parents
 - c) If you want to “abide” in light, then love some unlovely folks like Christians!
 - 3) Christians can be blinded, prior to being trapped, then devoured (1Jn 2:11; 2Pet 1:4-10)
 - 4) BUT! The devil has no “grip” on any Christian who loves right! It constrains the heart to forgive, to love, to stay in love with Jesus and His, and thereby FREES it from sin's power over them!

4. Conclusion

a. The Principle of Christian Love For One Another

- 1) Love AS Christ has loved YOU!
- 2) It is our badge, our identifying mark

b. The Power of Christian Love For One Another

- 1) It frees us from the pull of temptation by filling that part of us that is most messed up – our heart
- 2) To be loved by Christ is a powerful fact that changes our heart
- 3) To be loved by Christians is vital for sinners who have never been loved by people before
- 4) To love other Christians is the needed commitment by every believer
- 5) So, save your love for the best people in your life
 - a) Not for flings, or floozies, fluff of this world
 - b) But your love for marriage, for family, your parents, for God's people, for souls, for Jesus, and the Holy Spirit

c. The Practice of Christian Love For One Another

- 1) Go ahead and just bask in the light of God's love for a while
- 2) Then, just love some folks who you find hard to love
 - a) Forgive them. Tell someone you're sorry – humble yourself
 - b) Bless them
 - c) Thank God for them
 - d) Tell some folks you love them
 - e) Get into the habit of telling Christians you love them, carefully
 - f) Start showing Christ's kind of love

The Power of Encouragement (2:12-14)

The Power of Our Advocate (2:1,2)

The Power of Obedience (2:3-6)

The Power of Brotherly Love (2:7-11)

D. The Power of Encouragement (2:12-14)

1. Three verses. Right in the middle of Chapter 2
2. Three groups of Christians addressed
 - a. Little Children
 - b. Fathers
 - c. Young Men
3. John Encourages Us as We Face:
 - a. Struggles with sin (2:1,2) – we have Someone on our side!
 - b. Struggles with the narrow walk of the Christian life (2:4-6) It is worth it!
 - c. Struggles with other believers (2:9-11) They are family!
 - d. Struggles with satanic attacks (2:13) They are real!
 - e. Struggles against the attractions of the world (2:15)
 - f. Preparing them for “anti-christs” (2:18)
4. How This Encourages Us
 - a. It Focusing on each group of believers
 - 1) Not everyone is at the same level of growth and maturity
 - 2) We all should speak the same thing, but not all will have the same level of understanding and confidence
 - 3) As a matter of fact, there are five groups of people in any congregation:
 - a) The Unbeliever
 - b) The New Christian
 - c) The Growing Christian
 - d) The Mature Christian
 - e) The Backslidden, Carnal Christian
 - 4) Here, John only deals with three
 - b. John Praises the accomplishments of each group
 - c. John Repeats his words over and over
 - d. God is Reminding us of stable truths and spiritual realities
 - e. A lot of the Bible is just saying the same things from a different angle
 - f. Did you know that this is how you encourage OTHERS too?
 - 1) Focus on where a person is at – don’t expect them to be like their older brother or sister
 - 2) Remind them over and over what they HAVE accomplished and done
 - 3) Prepare them for future struggles, not by tearing them down and finding only all their flaws
 - 4) But by praising them (Prov 27:21)

5. Three Encouraging Statements

a. To New Believers

- 1) John settles the sin question for every new believer – Can they trust that they are truly and completely forgiven, and secure in Christ?
 - a) You ARE forgiven! Not BEING forgiven!
 - b) Your forgiveness was completely paid for BY Christ Jesus (2:1,2; Mt 1:21)
 - c) Jesus saves, and Jesus keeps! If anyone ends up in hell, it will only be because JESUS failed to keep them (Jude 1:24)
- 2) John settles the Son Question – you are ACCEPTED! As you are!
 - a) You are a SON of God
 - b) You personally KNOW God Almighty, as your heavenly Father (John 14:9)
- 3) You have a lot to be aware of! It is a great place to be (John 17:3)
- 4) You may not have accomplished a lot as a Christian, but just being saved, and knowing God is pretty awesome!

b. To Mature Believers – Leaders, Soul-Winners (1Cor 4:15)

- 1) You REALLY know God
 - a) Just knowing GOD is the best (Jer 9:23,24)
 - b) There is no greater goal than to know Him more (Philp 3:10)
 - c) Jesus emphasized that every believer should personally, intimately and actively know God (John 8:19)
- 2) Therefore, since you are saved a while, you have experienced a life of faith, and victory, you know better
 - a) Sins don't have a pull on you like they used to
 - b) Satan doesn't easily sway you
 - c) You are no more like children, tossed to and fro (Eph 4:14)
- 3) You are a leader now! That is a great place to be!
- 4) God deliver us from MEN and WOMEN who don't want to take up the mantle of responsibility in this dark age, and start leading the Church as Christ has taught us!
- 5) There is nothing good about Christians who have been saved for years who don't help out in any ministry, who still constantly give in to sinful temptations, and desires, and who still do not have a consistent walk with their God!

c. To Young Men – the most important group in a Church

- 1) You have overcome the wicked one (1Jn 4:4; 5:4,5)
 - a) First just by being saved – snatched from his grip
 - b) Then by putting on the whole armour of God (Eph 6:10-12)
 - c) Then by just resting on Jesus (1John 5:5)
 - d) Finally, by conquering every sin and sinful habit in your life by the Book
- 2) You are Strong, and not Defeated (Prov 20:29)
 - a) Healthy
 - b) Alive
 - c) Energetic

- d) All of you are supposed to be dedicated to doing God's will – not when you are old, but NOW when you are young!
- 3) The word of God “abideth” (sticks) in you – it is the centre of your life
 - a) It is constantly stored away in your heart (Psalm 119:11)
 - b) Keeps you sober minded and not drawn away by foolish friends (Titus 2:6)
 - c) Believers who don't stay in the Bible are not disciples of Christ (John 8:31)
 - d) It enables answers to all prayers (John 15:7)
- 6. These are all Three Stages of Christian Growth
 - a. Are You a Little Child – a New Believer?
 - 1) Amen!
 - 2) You are fully and completely forgiven
 - 3) You can live free from the bondage of all sin
 - 4) AND, you can look forward to growing into strong men and women of faith
 - b. Are you a Young Man – a Growing Christian?
 - 1) Amen!
 - 2) You only grow as you defeat Satan's traps and overcome every temptation
 - 3) You are strong, and vibrant, so be that as a Christian – don't be dead, or lax, or apathetic!
 - 4) You are the best when you are all out for the Lord like you would be if you were on the Munster team!
 - 5) Make sure the word of God is with you all the time, and getting INTO you every day!
 - 6) All of this so that you become mature as a believer, and not a cast away!
 - c. Are you a Father? A Mature Believer?
 - 1) Then get busy leading
 - 2) People naturally look up to you, so start leading them forward for the Lord
 - 3) You know better about all this sin stuff – you have been “around the block” and have seen enough to know that:
 - a) Divorce is not an option
 - b) Abortion is stupid
 - c) Cigarette smoking is a waste
 - d) Late night TV watching is demonic
 - e) Rock music is of the devil
 - f) Girls are to be left alone
 - 4) And as mature and wise as you may be, make sure your whole life surrounds getting to know your Lord more, and more, and more!
- 7. Conclusion
 - a. These three verses are encouraging us
 - b. Preparing us for future struggles
 - c. We each are at a spiritual level
 - d. Become faithful where you are at first
 - e. Then grow into the next stage
 - f. Each time, actively living out that stage of your Christian life – don't waste your life

The Power of Separation (2:15-17)

The Power of Our Advocate (2:1,2)

The Power of Obedience (2:3-6)

The Power of Brotherly Love (2:7-11)

The Power of Encouragement (2:12-14)

E. The Power of Separation (2:15-17)

1. Two Worlds (2:15)

- a. This world, and the World to Come!
- b. This world
 - 1) The world system - Man's way
 - a) It's government
 - b) It's ethos – the culture
 - c) It's glory (Luke 4:5)
 - 2) The way this world thinks and lives and talks and dreams and plays
 - 3) Run by Satan the prince and the power of the air (Eph 2:2)
 - 4) Lies in wickedness to God (1John 5:19)
 - 5) We all live in this world, but are not “of” it
 - 6) All of this world is nothing in comparison to the value of your soul (Mt 16:26)
 - 7) This world has an end
 - 8) This world is full of cares (Mark 4:19)
- c. The world to come (Luke 18:28-30)
 - 1) God's system
 - 2) A world run God's way; the way He thinks and lives, and talks
 - 3) The way of righteousness and joy
 - 4) A whole different culture
 - 5) Run by God
 - 6) A world of righteousness
 - 7) This world never ends
 - 8) This world has no burdens or cares
- d. Great Truths
 - 1) We are strangers here, and pilgrims headed somewhere better (1Pet 2:11; Heb 11:13-16)
 - 2) These two worlds co-exist (John 18:36)
 - 3) The believer actually lives in BOTH worlds (Eph 2:6), but only loves one

2. Two Loves (2:15)

- a. Not supposed to just reject the world system, but even the THINGS of this world
- b. The love for the world
 - 1) Explained in Luke 12:15-31
 - 2) The things which are in the world:
 - a) Temporary things
 - b) They all rust, wear out, and fade
 - c) Include all things you can possess
 - d) It includes all honour, prestige, pride

- e) The things you wear, and eat
 - f) The people you want to be like
 - g) People love the praise of men more than the praise of God. Its profits, pleasures, and honours, have the strongest allurements
 - h) This world has its own "spirit"
 - i) It has its own wisdom (1Cor 3:18)
 - j) It includes everything that might take the place of God
 - (i) Your children
 - (ii) Your career
 - (iii) Your fears
 - (iv) Your depression
 - (v) Your husband
 - (vi) Your parents
 - (vii) Yourself (Luke 14:26; John 12:25)
- 3) It is all covetousness!
- 4) It is ALL Idolatry! (Ex 20:4,5)
- c. The love for the Father – worship
- 1) Ought to be so natural!
 - 2) Loving God! The greatest goal of any human! To know and love God
 - 3) Making room for the love OF God in your heart! Experiencing God's love for you!
 - a) No cigarette ever loved you
 - b) No pint ever loved you
 - c) No magazine editor ever loved you
 - d) No Hollywood director every loved you
 - e) No floozy girl, winking her eyes ever loved you
 - 4) There are many things with God worth loving (Col 3:1)
 - a) The peace of God (John 14:27; 16:33)
 - b) God's Joy (John 17:13)
 - c) Jesus
 - d) New Jerusalem
 - e) Mansions
 - f) Other believers – the brethren
 - g) God's word, the Bible – settled in heaven (Psalm 119:89)
 - h) The Holy Spirit
- d. Great Truths!
- 1) You become like what you love (Rom 12:2)
 - 2) The Truth About Loving God
 - a) The world cannot love Jesus (John 7:7)
 - b) The world will not love you (John 15:18,19)
 - c) The world only produces religions (John 8:23) – Pharisees
 - d) This world only hates God (John 17:25)
- 3. Three categories of trouble with things! (2:16)**
- a. Lust of the flesh
- 1) What you crave
 - 2) Drink, drugs, fancy food, fancy clothes, a boyfriend

- b. Lust of the eyes
 - 1) Be careful what you see and desire
 - 2) This world is SO visual today
 - 3) Promoting LUST, and feeding lust
 - 4) Always about beauty and stimulating us by what we see
- c. Pride of life
 - 1) Be careful about your ambition
 - 2) Everything is always about what YOU deserve today
- d. Example of this trap is Eve (Gen 3:6)
 - 1) Discontented women
 - 2) Unhappy teenagers – no girlfriend or boyfriend
 - 3) Depressed men – nothing to show-off
- e. We all will always struggle with these three things, until we go home

4. Two Impossibilities

- a. Impossible to have two loves (Matt 6:24)
- b. Impossible to love God AND love what God hates
- c. Great Truths!
 - 1) If you give place to the love of the world, the love of God cannot dwell in you; and if you have not his love, you can have no peace, no holiness, no heaven.
 - 2) Only with the right priority, can you actually, sufficiently love others
 - 3) It is Impossible to love ...
 - a) Your wife and husband right unless you love God right
 - b) Your children right unless you love God right
 - c) Yourself right unless you love God right
 - d) Your enemies right unless you love God right
 - 4) Once you put God second, and love anything more than Him, then EVERYTHING falls apart! Guaranteed

5. Two Choices

- a. What you are going to love
- b. What you are going to hate, reject, not love
- c. Great Truths!
 - 1) Whatever choice you make, you will separate yourself from the other world
 - a) If you are smoking, drinking, using drugs, you have chosen the wrong world
 - b) If you are praising God, loving the brethren, giving your money, soul-winning, and putting up with people, you have chosen the right world
 - c) Ever seen people try and live in both worlds? Try and love both the world and the father? They don't last. They always self destruct! Why? Because it can't be done
 - 2) That's why God commands us to come out, separate ourselves from whatever is causing us to no longer love God
 - a) Late night TV
 - b) Rock music

- c) Boyfriends, girlfriends
- d) Secret entertainments, internet

6. Two examples

- a. Demas (2Tim 4:10)
- b. Generally most all Christians (Philp 2:19-21). Or else, churches would be bursting and growing exponentially!

7. Two Endings (1John 2:17)

- a. This world passes away – is dying already!
- b. But those who do the will of God – not rebellious, and stubborn – will abide forever

8. Practical Applications - Conclusion

- a. All our problems stem from our hearts, and what we love and what we hate!
- b. What we LOVE determines what we are like
- c. There are two huge, immense realms/kingdoms that we wrestle with
- d. In order to love one, you must reject the other! It does not come easily, nor naturally
- e. There is no way to love anyone right until you love God totally and completely – only then will He give you the ability to love even the unloveable!
- f. It's time to repent of wrong loves, and fall back in love with Jesus!
- g. Until you do, you are in darkness (1John 2:9,11)!

The Power of Clear Warning (2:18-29)

The Power of Our Advocate (2:1,2)

The Power of Obedience (2:3-6)

The Power of Brotherly Love (2:7-11)

The Power of Encouragement (2:12-14)

The Power of Separation (2:15-17)

F. The Power of Clear Warning – Against False Teachers – Antichrists (2:18-29)

1. *It is the Last Time* (2:18)

- a. This letter/epistle was written 2,000 years ago by the last apostle, John
- b. He is writing after some 60 years of Christianity at the end of the first century, and he is talking about end times!
- c. Yet, we are to live like we are at the end of our time! Not expecting this world to continue on for another 100 years!
- d. These are all specific phrases: The Last Day, the Last Days, the Last Time, the Last Times, the End, etc.
 - 1) “Last days” – of the seven day week of millennium
 - a) Days in Scripture (2Pet 3:8)
 - b) Day 5 and 6 are the last days
 - c) Day 7 is the millennial reign of Jesus Christ
 - d) The last day is the final BIG resurrection day of people (John 6:39)
 - e) Believers get resurrected at the Rapture
 - 2) Isaiah 2:2
 - 3) Acts 2:17 – just after Pentecost, and then during the tribulation
 - 4) The last days are not dawning to a golden age, but are perilous times for believers (2Tim 3:1)
- e. John was reminding his Christians in his particular day, that the battle today in our world
 - 1) Is not just between love and hatred, that is a social battle;
 - 2) It is not just a battle between holiness and sin, a moral battle;
 - 3) But it is a battle for doctrine, it is a battle between truth and error.
- f. If there is anything that threatens young believers, it is FALSE Doctrine!

2. *Antichrist and antichrists* (2:18,19)

- a. Antichrist
 - 1) Shall come!
 - 2) Another Messiah
 - 3) An angel of light – a transformer, a counterfeit, a deceiver (2Cor 11)
 - 4) Impossible to detect
 - 5) The beast of the tribulation
 - 6) Judas Iscariot
- b. Antichrists
 - 1) In our own midst (Acts 20:30) - Even Christians can become antichrist
 - a) By turning back to the world

- b) By not doing the will of God (Mt 12:30)
 - c) By not loving the brethren
- 2) They started off good - But went out from us
 - a) Were not committed
 - b) Continuing makes you a disciple (John 8:31; Acts 14:22; 26:22; Col 1:23)
 - c) Quitters don't make good Christians
 - d) These are known as Apostates (Jude 1:4, 8, 12,13, 16, 19)
 - e) Another word is Reprobate
 - 3) They set out to influence the world against Christ, as well as ruin believers (2Tim 4:1-3) – bitter people who hate God's people!
- c. The devil wants the world to take a substitute for the Lord Jesus as long as they don't take the real thing!
- 1) He'll settle for people taking a pseudo-Christ, or something that is *like Christ* in person or in doctrine, as long as they miss the real Christ! That's his ploy.
 - 2) If you think for one moment that he only wants everybody to be Satanists and bow down to him - no! He doesn't care what you bow down to, even if it's called 'Jesus Christ', as long as it's not the real thing!
3. ***The Unction and the Anointing*** (2:20,27)
- a. Unction is one of those little used words
 - b. Usually spoken of as the sacrament of anointing in the last hours; the application of consecrated oil by a priest – extreme unction
 - c. It means, anointing
 - 1) A special act of anointing someone to show they were special and had a special calling and work to do
 - 2) We ALL have God's anointing
 - 3) It is not a "power" so to speak, but a PERSON!
John is saying: 'You have the Spirit, believers, young believers, you have an unction, an anointing from the Holy One to tell what is truth and what is error'. Now this anointing, this unction is not an influence of the Spirit, it is the Spirit Himself. We're not anointed by the Spirit, like something being sprinkled on us or something zapping us, we're anointed with the Spirit, we're given Him - He is the anointing, He is the gift of God!
 - 4) The person of the Holy Spirit IN every believer (Rom 8:9; Gal 4:6)
 - 5) Promised to us all in John 15:26!!!
 - 6) This Person tells us what is truth and what is error!
4. ***We Know All the Things John is Talking About*** (2:20,21)
- a. None of what John is telling us is "new" doctrine
 - b. It has all been spelled out both in the Old Testament, and in the Gospels, etc
 - c. But it is evident that we need to be reminded
 - d. We need to be reminded what the truth really is so that we can detect the lies that are coming – AND BOY ARE THEY COMING!
 - e. Harry Ironside used to say: 'If it's new, it's not true; and if it's true, it's not new'.
5. ***The Lies of the Last Days*** (2:22,23)
- a. That Jesus is NOT the Messiah of God
 - 1) This is the big push of the last 200 years
 - 2) That Jesus is NOT what the world needs

- 3) That there is another “saviour” that we need – Jesus was a failure
 - a) Jesus Christ Superstar
 - b) Jesus needing Veronica, and His mother at the cross
 - c) Jesus falling with the cross
 - 4) This is the big lie of the last days
 - a) That MARY is needed for mediation
 - b) That the saints are needed
 - c) That our good works will save us, and not just Jesus
 - d) The promise of the Messiah was NOT fully fulfilled in Jesus!!! If the deceivers are to be believed!
 - 5) It prepares people for the coming antichrist! (2Cor 11:4)
 - b. That Jesus and the Father are NOT One
 - 1) If you reject Jesus, you have rejected the Father
 - a) See the way the word AND is used in James 1:27
 - b) John 10:30
 - c) John 14:7-11
 - d) 1John 5:7
 - 2) If you deny the deity of Jesus, you deny God the father (1Jn 2:23)
 - 3) If you agree with and believe in Jesus as the very Son of God, you possess the Father in you!
6. *Examining Ourselves* (2:24,25)
- a. People are saying today that it doesn't really matter what you believe - all that matters is how you believe it, the sincerity wherewith you hold your convictions. Some people in our world of all colours of the spectrum of religious belief, believe that all they need to do is worship God sincerely. Even Christians are saying this!
 - b. Here is the Biblical Tests of our “Faith”
 - 1) The Test of Continuance
 - a) In 2 Timothy, Paul said to that young man in chapter 1 and verse 13: 'Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus'. This is the faith once and for all delivered to the saints, and we're not to change it or doctor it, or bring it up to date - we're to hold fast to it!
 - b) In 1Jn 2:24 the safeguard for young believers is to let that truth abide in us which we have known from the beginning, the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ and of all His apostles.
 - c) John is ever pointing them back to the simple gospel message of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Our safety, John is saying, is to stay as close to the word of God as possible. The words, Abide, and remain means 'let it take up a permanent address in your being', 'let it have a settled home in your soul'.
 - d) A new birth is just like the first birth – it naturally continues
 - e) See 1 Cor 15:1-4 to see the test of continuance (Jn 8:31 and 2Cor 13:5)
 - f) Does a “prayer” save? If someone prayed to be saved, and they don't continue, they need to be afraid of missing salvation and only having a form of salvation, a shadow of it, but not the real thing!
 - 2) If we obey His commandments, we know that we know God

- 3) If we love Christians, we know that the Father dwells within us.
- 4) If we stay in a strong, Bible believing church (1Jn 2:19), then it's because our hearts are here. No real believer seeks to divide a church, or ruin a church!
- 5) If we keep Biblical truth, and do not continually exchange it (1Jn 2:24), it's because the truth is in us. One of the signs that you're a child of God is that you persevere in the truth,
 - a) You don't withdraw and stand apart from the Gospel, the faith once delivered to the saints, and deny it with various heresies.
 - b) You don't split the church with untruths in the fundamental doctrines of the faith.
 - c) So if you want to rest assured in your salvation, make sure that you're persevering in the truth of God's word, and make sure that you're not attempting to split God's church with any false fundamental doctrine.
 - d) People who don't care about doctrine, don't care about Christ!
 - e) Many of these modern heresies and cults were initiated by those who once professed the Christian evangelical faith. Let me give you some examples:
 - (i) Sun Myung Moon, the founder of the Moonies, was born into a Presbyterian family.
 - (ii) Joseph Smith was reared in a Presbyterian home, the founder of Mormonism.
 - (iii) William Miller of the Seventh Day Adventists was a licensed Baptist preacher.
 - (iv) Ellen White, their famous prophetess, was reared in a Methodist home.
 - (v) Charles Taze Russell of the Jehovah's Witnesses was brought up as a Congregationalist and as a Presbyterian.
 - (vi) Mary Baker Eddy was a Congregationalist in a very strict home, I'm led to believe.
 - (vii) William Irvine of the Cooneyites was a Faith Mission Pilgrim, took crusades all over Ireland.
 - (viii) These all went out from us, but they were not of us!
 - (ix) Every one of them deny the deity of Christ and the perfection of His sacrifice
- 6) The Test of Fruit
 - a) There is fruit from a marriage – children!
 - b) There is always fruit from an argument, or a fight – division
 - c) Shouldn't there be "fruit" if we are saved? (Matthew 7:16)
 - d) God calls it the fruit of the Spirit in our lives (Gal 5)
- c. What we heard from the beginning, is the Gospel!
 - 1) That the Word became flesh (John 1:1-3)
 - 2) That Jesus was THE Lamb (John 1:29) capable of taking away the sins of the whole world
 - 3) That all men must repent and believe on that Lamb (John 5:24)
- d. If you got saved by believing anything else (Gal 1:6-9), or DOING anything good, then the Gospel had no affect on you, and you are lost
 - 1) It is believing the Gospel that saves and transforms, - nothing else added will work!
 - 2) If you continue, then you HAVE eternal life!

- e. People need to fear not continuing in God's word (John 8:31), in prayer, in the Christian life!
7. **All of this is to help us when dealing with false teachers, seducers (2:26)**
 - a. They lie about Jesus being the Son of God
 - b. They lie about Jesus being the Messiah – the Christ
 - c. They lie about Jesus and the Father being one and the same God
 - d. They lie about the Gospel truths – they constantly add to the Gospel
 - e. They lie about NOT having eternal life NOW
 - f. They lie about fundamentalism, and move away from it
 - g. They lie about “new” revelations
 8. **No need for new revelations (2:27)**
 - a. God's anointing abides in every believer
 - b. We have no need for someone to teach us another Gospel (Gal 1:6-9)
 - c. We have no need for revelators, just expounders
 - d. Just abide in what has already been written (Cf 1Cor 11:3,4)
 - e. The Holy Spirit of God is our actual teacher (John 14:26; 1Cor 2:9,10; John 16:13) – no pope or priest or preacher can over-rule it
 - f. And yet, that is exactly what “antichrists” have tried to do...
 - 1) Apocryphal books
 - 2) Visions and dreams
 - 3) Modern prophecies
 - 4) Everyone wants to speak something NEW instead of just obey what is written
 9. **The Command to Abide (2:28,29)**
 - a. Not only do we need to hold on to the truth (1Jn 2:24)
 - b. Young Christians (little children) need to abide (John 15:7). Stay with the course and learn that God is faithful, and that He is right, and go through some tribulations (Acts 14:22)
 - c. It is the key to spiritual growth and confidence. You don't pick this up like in a class room!
 - d. We all need disciplined, active, worship in our lives!
 - e. You will need confidence when you meet Jesus! Without confidence you will only have guilt and shame and embarrassment
 - f. An abiding (personal walk) produces righteousness in every believer – you become more and more like who you hang around with!
 - g. People who are born again live righteously – not flippantly!

III. Conclusion

- A. This has been a BIG chapter!
- B. We have learned about SIX big weapons against sin and temptation in our lives – IF WE WOULD ACT ON THEM!
 1. The Power of Our Advocate (2:1,2)
 2. The Power of Obedience (2:3-6)
 3. The Power of Brotherly Love (2:7-11)
 4. The Power of Encouragement (2:12-14)
 5. The Power of Separation (2:15-17)
 6. The Power of Clear Warning – Against False Teachers – Antichrists (2:18-29)
 - a. **It is the Last Time (2:18)**
 - b. **Antichrist and antichrists (2:18,19)**

- 1) Antichrist
 - 2) Antichrists - In our own midst (Acts 20:30) - Even Christians can become antichrist
- c. *The Uncion and the Anointing* (2:20,27)
 - d. *We Know All the Things John is Talking About* (2:20,21)
 - e. *The Lies of the Last Days* (2:22,23)
 - 1) That Jesus is NOT the Messiah of God
 - 2) That Jesus and the Father are NOT One
 - f. *Examining Ourselves* (2:24,25)
 - g. *All of this is to help us when dealing with false teachers, seducers* (2:26)
 - h. *There is No need for new revelations* (2:27)
 - i. *The Command to Abide* (2:28,29)

First John Chapter Three

We Are Sure About Our Family

I. Introduction (1John 3:10)

- A. Chapter One was written that our joy would be full, just by maintaining a relationship with Jesus Christ – every day walking with Him, worshipping Him!
- B. Chapter Two gave us six keys to victory over sins in our life.
- C. Chapter Three reveals the difference between the children of God, and the children of the devil (Cf John 8:44)
- D. It shows us things that give us assurance about our relationship with God and all His family (Eph 3:14,15)
 - 1. John will present a clear contrast between two families (1Jn 3:10)
 - 2. He starts off Exposing the Marks of Sonship (3:1-3)
 - 3. He Exposes the Myth of Living in Sin (3:4-9)
 - 4. He then Shows how our HEART reveals Whose Family We are In (3:10-18)
 - 5. He Finishes by Revealing some things that are greater than our Heart (3:19-24)

The Marks of Sonship (3:1-3)

II. Lesson 1 - the Marks of Sonship (3:1-3)

A. Behold – what a word!

- 1. Take a good long look at this truth! Seek most of all to understand, to perceive such a thing as the love of God
- 2. Most religions have deities, but almost none of them love their creation
- 3. They all demand people to love and care for their “gods”, but almost none of the gods love back (Ps 135:15-18)
 - a. Allah – no love at all towards this world
 - b. Buddhism – there is no god, so no one loves you
 - c. Hinduism – there are 3,000,000 gods, and they are all too busy to love you, and you had better have been born into the right caste to be loved at all
 - d. African and Polynesian Spiritism – belief in spirits – always in fear of upsetting the spirits. never knowing one that loved them, EVER!
 - e. Catholicism – God is too angry to actually love us! Who would think that God REALLY loves this world? Only Jesus’ MOTHER could love this world!
- 4. And yet God throughout Scripture tells us that He loves us (Dt 7:7,8; 10:15; 1Jn 4:19; John 3:16)

B. God’s Kind of Love

- 1. Not Hollywood’s kind, or the Beatles’ kind, or girlfriend/boyfriend kind
- 2. *Furnished Love* – bestowed on US (Rom 5:5-8)
 - a. Came from God, not from ourselves
 - b. It is a love that supplies everything that we cannot
 - c. Even righteousness is supplied
 - d. THAT’S SOME LOVE!
- 3. *Family Love* – sons of GOD
 - a. Like a father towards his children (Gal 4:6)

- b. The same kind of love that GOD the Father has towards His Son (Jn 17:23,24)
 - c. THAT'S SOME LOVE!
4. **Forgiven Love** (Rev 1:5)
- a. Truly forgiving kind of love that does all that is needed to forgive (1Jn 4:10)
 - b. We usually expect a lot out of someone who has hurt us before we forgive them
 - c. But not God!
 - d. He forgives on the basis of what HE did when he became a Man and died at our own hands!
 - e. When was the last time that it cost YOU everything to extend forgiveness to an enemy? yeah, I thought so!
 - f. THAT'S SOME LOVE!
5. **Forever Love** (Jer 31:3)
- a. Not on again, off again love
 - b. But constant
 - c. And if you can believe it, an ever growing love
 - d. Just like all the love songs sing – and yet we get to actually experience such love!
6. **Full Love** – sufficient, you will never need more than such love
- a. Not a limited love, but sufficient for everyone
 - b. More than enough for all your life, and even into all of eternity (Eph 2:4-7)
 - c. THAT'S SOME LOVE!

C. To be “Called” the sons of God

- 1. Like Jesus was – He was called “the Son of God”
 - a. By the devils (Mt 8:29)
 - b. By the believers (Mt 14:33)
 - c. By the sceptics (Mt 27:54)
 - d. By God Himself (Mt 3:17; 17:5)
- 2. It doesn't matter what the world calls us, as long as GOD calls us His sons (Jn 1:10-12)
 - a. We have claim, no power, no authority to say such about ourselves
 - b. Yet, Jesus grants us such power!
- 3. Jesus is our older brother, so-to-speak (Rom 8:29; Heb 2:11,12; Mt 12:47-50; Jn 20:17)

D. The Effect of Such Love (1Jn 3:1b)

- 1. It does something to you! It does something to ME!
- 2. **It Changes us** – makes us so that people can't figure us out anymore
 - a. The world doesn't know us
 - b. Doesn't recognize who we really are
 - c. Just like they didn't recognize who Jesus really was
 - d. And God is not finished changing us – THANK GOD – we don't appear like we will when He is finished (Ps 138:8)
- 3. **It Possesses Us** – now owned by God (1Cor 6:19,20) – no longer by the devil! His kingdom has been spoiled
- 4. **It Encourages Us** (3:2b)

- a. We KNOW that when He returns (with us behind Him) we will be just like Jesus (Ps 17:15)
 - b. That means we will:
 - 1) Walk on water
 - 2) Walk through solid, locked doors
 - 3) Eat anything we want
 - 4) Float into the air
 - 5) Be perfect
 - c. We will KNOW that we are like Him, because one day soon, we will all see Him as He IS
 - 1) Not as He was
 - a) Meek and lowly
 - b) No home, no money, no army, no horse, not even a mule
 - c) Hungry, tired, dirty, sweaty
 - d) That is how He was – and how we are by the way!
 - 2) But we will see Him as He IS right now in heaven (Rev 1:7-17)
 - a) Perfect in every way, except 5 scars
 - b) Our high priest – the only mediator between us and God
 - c) His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow
 - d) His eyes were as a flame of fire!
 - e) His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace
 - f) His voice as the sound of many waters!
5. *It Purifies Us* (2Tim 2:19)
- a. To have the hope of heaven, of seeing Jesus, and becoming like Him
 - b. It purifies us!
 - c. It does not make us lax towards sin, but motivates us to want to be clean from it
 - d. It causes us to work hard at living out what God has put in us (Philp 2:12,13)
 - e. To be holy and pure as JESUS is pure! That is our goal, our mark
 - f. So, the fact that you WANT to be clean, and pure from sin in your life is a good sign – a very important proof that you are a child of God.
 - g. If you do not care about sin residing in your heart, then you need to be very worried!

E. Conclusion

1. So, the Identifying Marks of a Child of God Are:
 - a. That you have answered God's call to be adopted into His family by the new birth
 - b. You know you are loved by God
 - c. You know you are secure in that love – nothing you can do can stop that love, separate you now from that love (Rom 8:35-39)
 - d. You KNOW you are a child of God – not hoping, striving for it, but possessing it
 - e. You want to be pure and clean and like Jesus in every way
2. Do you have those marks? Can anyone SEE those marks in your life?
 - a. Maybe they are there but you are hiding them
 - b. Or, maybe you are just faking it, and need to be born again!

The Constant Battle With Sin (1John 3:3-10)

III. Lesson 2 – The Constant Battle With Sin (1John 3:3-10)

A. Introduction.

1. We have seen the marks of Sonship (1John 3:1-3)
 - a. Adoption into His family by the new birth
 - b. An awareness that you are loved by God
 - c. An awareness that know you are secure in that love (Rom 8:35-39)
 - d. A desire to be pure and clean and like Jesus in every way
2. Now we learn about the Marks of Rejection – what identifies a non-believer

B. Abiding in Sin? (3:3-6) – The Marks of Rejection

1. We Start with Personal Purity (3:3)

1Jn 3:3 *And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

 - a. Verse 3 sets the context for the next few verses – that a Christian WANTS to be clean, pure, and works hard at staying pure – it is called sanctification!
 - b. At least PART of him wants to be!
 - c. If you ever get a sure hope, a confidence, you will want to be pure!
 - d. Great Truth: Sin is the result of the loss of hope!
2. Definition of Sin (3:4)

1Jn 3:4 *Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*

 - a. Sin is: Transgressing, or the breaking of the law of God
 - 1) Whether we have read it in His word
 - 2) Or broken the law of our own conscience (Rom 1:19)
 - b. When a person sins, they are not just hurting themselves, or other people - they are breaking GOD’S laws!
3. “HE” was manifested – Jesus – to take away our sins, not enable us to live in our sins (3:5)

1Jn 3:5 *And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.*

 - a. Manifested means Jesus existed before he was born! And then He appeared!
 - b. Jesus was GOD manifested (1Tim 3:16) in the flesh
 - c. His main reason for coming was:
 - 1) Matthew 1:21 to “*save his people from their sin*”
 - 2) 1Timothy 1:15 He “*came into this world to save sinners*”
 - 3) Luke 19:10 to “*seek and to save that which was lost*”
 - 4) Heb 2:14 “*through death he might destroy him that had the power of death*”
 - d. Notice that in HIM is no sin at all (Cf 2Cor 5:21). Totally human, but not any sin!
 - e. ONLY HE could take it away, because as a perfect human He was without spot. GOD as GOD could not take away sin, only God as MAN – because as a man he could DIE in our place!

- f. What did Jesus take away from us on the cross?
 - 1) Was it our sinful nature on the cross?
 - a) Nope! Still stuck with it!
 - b) Paul says he was a wretched man as a man (Rom 7:24)
 - 2) What DID He take away?
 - a) Our sinful record that was against us (Col 2:13,14)
 - b) Our due punishment – death (2Tim 1:10)
 - c) Our guilty conscience about our sins (Heb 9:9,14)
 - d) Even God’s memory of our sins (Heb 10:17,18)
4. So! Christians Still Sin (Cf 1John 1:8,9) even though God has forgiven it in heaven
5. The idea is that if you are abiding in Christ, you will not sin much (Rom 5:20; 6:1)
 - a. Grace makes up for our sin - But it does not excuse our sin
 - b. The more you “abide” in Jesus, the less you sin!
 - 1) Why? Because you LET Him take away every sinful tendency, one at a time!
 - 2) 1Jn 3:6 *Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.*
 - 3) People who constantly sin, and have no struggle against it, has not seen Jesus, and does not know Him
 - a) People were claiming to speak for Jesus who have not seen Him
 - b) Paul SAW Him, and KNEW Him
 - 4) “Sinneth” means sins, and sins, and sins some more. No break, no struggle.
 - 5) The more you sin, the less anyone will believe that you know Jesus!
 - 6) The only struggle a Christian should have is with ABIDING with Christ
 - a) Walk in the Spirit and you won’t sin (Gal 5:16)!
 - b) Ignore your walk with Jesus and you will ONLY sin, no matter how you look at it!
 - c) It is a gross sin that will lead to more and more wicked sins if you ignore your necessary walk with God!
 - c. So, abiding in Christ is an effort to stay close to Him, and follow Him

C. The Two Natures of a Christian (3:7-10)

1. There is a part that does not sin, and a part that does! And there is the real you in the middle, always choosing between the two natures!
2. “Let no man” means, let no “teacher” or influencer deceive you (3:7)!
 - a. If you are doing right things, you will be doing what Jesus did! For what HE did was righteous! There are no new interpretations on what righteousness is other than the life of Christ!
 - b. 1Jn 3:7 *Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.*
3. Misconceptions - Some people look upon certain saints and able ministers, and say, "Surely, these men do not suffer as I do; they do not contend with the same evil passions as those which vex and trouble me"
 - a. If they really knew those men, and knew their inward conflicts, they would discover the nearer a man lives to God, the more he mourns over his own evil heart

- b. James 5:17 says all men have the same passions
- 4. Every sin you commit, got its start in the heart of the devil. You are simply fulfilling HIS lusts, not just your own!

1Jn 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

 - a. Tolerance of sin is no virtue!
 - b. You end up getting a seared conscience
- 5. Jesus came not to just pay for all your sins, but to destroy his works in your life
- 6. What are the works of the devil in a persons life?
 - a. All his plans of wickedness. He uses people to do things that bring HIM glory
 - b. And his control over the hearts of people.
 - c. See Mat 8:29 “*Art thou come hither to torment us before the time?*”
 - d. See Mar 1:24 “*Art thou come to destroy us?*”
 - e. See Heb 2:14 “*that he might destroy him who had the power of death*”
 - f. The argument here is, that as the Son of God came to destroy all the works of the devil, he cannot be his true follower who lives in sin.
- 7. So there is a part of you that seems to always sin – the carnal part – the flesh (Cf Rom 7:18)
 - a. This nature was inherited from your parents, which came from Adam
 - 1) It is a fallen nature, and is at enmity to God (Rom 8:17)
 - 2) When a man becomes a Christian, he gets the infusion of a new nature (we will talk about this more in a moment)
 - a) He was by nature "dead in trespasses and sins," and he was "without God and without hope"
 - b) The holy spirit enters into him, and implants in him a new nature, and a new life
 - c) That life has a high, holy, perfect and supernatural character, it is in fact the divine nature; it is the Holy Spirit of God dwelling in a sinful man
 - 3) The Christian then becomes a double man; two men in one!
 - a) Some have imagined that the old nature is kicked out of the Christian, but this is not so
 - b) The word of God and experience teaches us that the old nature in the Christian is unchanged, and as bad as ever it was; while the new nature in us is holy, pure and heavenly
 - c) For this reason there arises a CONSTANT conflict between the two – Galatians 5:17
 - b. This “body of sin” (Rom 6:6) is a body of so many messed up things that just don’t and CAN’T do right!
 - 1) Chemical reactions
 - 2) Chemical pathways
 - 3) Hormones
 - 4) Memories
 - 5) Habits

- 6) Genes
 - 7) That's why it is impossible to save it, and very hard to change it
 - c. It is called the "old man" (Eph 4:22)
 - d. The old nature of man, which remains in the Christian, is only evil (no matter how good it may think it is), and it cannot ever be anything but evil!
 - e. So, The old Adam-nature cannot be improved; it cannot be made better; it is hopeless to attempt it – ***without the new birth!***
 - 1) We may do so many things with it: we may educate it, instruct it, and actually end up giving it more instruments for rebellion
 - 2) We cannot make the rebel into a friend, we cannot turn the darkness into light; our old man is an enemy to God, and an enemy to God it shall ever be
 - f. But that does not mean that we are doomed – not unless we neglect so great salvation!
8. The part of the believer that is born again CANNOT sin now (1Jn 3:9)! The Holy Spirit!

1Jn 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

- a. The flesh of a believer ONLY sins, so it has to be forced to submit to the law of God (Rom 7:17,18)
 - 1) Again, the flesh of a person is made up of chemical reactions, genes, chemical pathways
 - 2) It is VERY hard to modify the flesh
 - 3) It is IMPOSSIBLE to save it!
 - b. The soul of a believer can and does sin, but doesn't have to now – it is separated from the flesh (Col 2:11-13; Rom 7:22)
 - c. The spirit of a believer cannot sin
 - 1) It is sealed by the presence of the Holy Spirit. It can be filled with unholy spirits, but it does not sin anymore once regenerated!
 - 2) The spirit is usually willing, but the flesh is ALWAYS weak (Mk 14:38)!
 - 3) Christ in you!
9. Two tests to see whether you are a real believer, or are rejected by God (3:10)
- 1Jn 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.*
- a. Two Parents (Matt 13:38; John 8:44)
 - b. Do you do righteousness as JESUS did? If not, then you are not born of God
 - c. Do you love your brother? If not, then you still walk in darkness!

D. What We Can Learn From This!

- 1. There are clear differences between a believer and a faker – they have different parents
- 2. Jesus was manifested to take our sins away: Both our penalty, and each tendency
- 3. Focus on your walk with God, and the less sin you will commit
- 4. The more you sin, the less anyone will believe that you know Jesus!
- 5. People who constantly sin, and have no struggle against it, have not seen Jesus, and do not know Him
- 6. You will never completely eradicate sin from your flesh

7. Your fleshly habits will NEVER please God
8. Every sin you commit, got its start in the heart of the devil.
9. The more people learn WITHOUT salvation leads them only to more rebellion and damnation

The Constant Battle With the Heart (1John 3:10-18)

IV. Lesson 3 – The Constant Battle With the Heart (1John 3:10-18)

A. Introduction.

1. We have seen the marks of Sonship (1John 3:1-3)
 - a. Adoption into His family by the new birth
 - b. An awareness that you are loved by God
 - c. An awareness that know you are secure in that love (Rom 8:35-39)
 - d. A desire to be pure and clean and like Jesus in every way
2. Then we learned about the Marks of Rejection – what identifies a non-believer
3. Now, tonight we focus on the heart
 - a. To see if there is any activity there, or whether it is dead or not!
 - b. Salvation is more than just a belief
 - c. It is a different way of living – living eternal life
 - d. A person who asks for full forgiveness from God not only is forgiven, they are adopted (John 1:11,12; Rom 8:15). They become a child of God
 - 1) Jesus was the only begotten Son of God
 - 2) All believers are spiritually born into God’s family (Gal 3:26)

B. Characteristics of a Christian (3:10)

1Jn 3:10 *In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.*

1. If you don’t do right, then you are NOT a child of God
 - a. You ought to at least be trying, wrestling (Rom 7:15-19)
 - b. If you are living sinfully, and not bothered by it, then you are not a child of God
 - c. That is plain and simple – your way of living tells the world about your “faith”
2. AND, if you don’t love your brother, then you are NOT a child of God either!
 - a. Wow! There is that “love one another” thing!
 - b. Family love – loving everyone in your family
 - c. Christian love – loving everyone in the family of God
 - d. If you don’t love the following things, then you need to examine yourselves
 - 1) If you don’t love praying for one another
 - 2) If you don’t love serving one another
 - 3) If you don’t love giving to one another
 - 4) If you don’t love being corrected and instructed by your pastor
 - 5) If you don’t love spending time with believers
 - 6) If you don’t love just being with one another!
 - 7) Then don’t call yourself a Christian!
 - e. These are what families do! They sacrifice for each other, and over-look a lot of things – because they are FAMILY!

C. The Command – love one another (3:11-13)

1Jn 3:11-13 *For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.*

1. It is a command you know!
2. From the beginning – from Genesis
 - a. Where is it in Genesis?
 - b. Gen 2:24 “cleave unto his wife” – love his family
3. The example given however is in Genesis 4:4-8 with Cain and Abel
4. The point is to NOT love as Cain “loved” Abel
 - a. Cain was spoiled
 - b. Cain was extroverted
 - c. Cain was good
 - d. Cain was proud
 - e. And when God ignored Cain’s offering for sin, and honoured Abel’s offering (Heb 11:4), Cain was furious – AT ABEL!
 - f. Cain allowed his anger ferment and become murder!
 - g. Cain was a child of Adam and Eve, but spiritually he was a child of the wicked one (Mt 13:19; 13:38; 1Jn 2:13; John 8:44)
5. Just look at how the “world” hates Christians (3:13), and see if YOU also treat others the same way?
 - a. Ignoring them
 - b. Imagining evil towards them
 - c. Seeking revenge for the way they treat you
 - d. Talking about them behind their backs
 - e. Saying hurtful things to their faces
 - f. Never edifying them
 - g. You say Christians wouldn’t treat each other that way would they? See Gal 5:13-15!

D. The Conversion (3:14,15)

1Jn 3:14-15 *We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*

1. Here is another “KNOW” – we know that we have passed from death unto life... How? Because we love the brethren
 - a. Not just love God, even though that is a must
 - b. But love Christians
 - c. Birds of a feather will naturally flock together
2. The Life Principle – He that loveth not...
 - a. It does not say, don’t hate your brother
 - b. It says don’t NOT love your brother!
 - c. The emphasis is on what you MUST do, not on what you are NOT to do
 - d. If you are not actively causing your heart to love your family members, (your wife, your husband, your children), AND actively causing your heart to love other

Christians, then you ARE a murderer on the inside, and are headed down a path that will lead to physical murder!

- e. Anger is the start of murder (Num 35:20,21)
 - f. If you don't love someone, then you are living in DEATH (3:14b) – you are still unsaved – at least you are acting unsaved!
 - 1) Listen to the thoughts of an angry person
 - 2) Examine the heart of a murderer
 - 3) Is THAT what a Christian is supposed to be like?
3. No murderer is a Christian
- a. A Christian can murder – see Moses, David
 - b. But that is NOT a characteristic of a Christian (1Cor 6:9-11)
 - c. Every one of those characteristics are in ALL our hearts, but they cannot be a normal part of our living, and we actually be a child of God
 - d. Because we have been converted – changed, or at least are BEING changed!
 - 1) Washed
 - 2) Sanctified
 - 3) New Heart
 - 4) New Mind

E. The Pattern (3:16-18)

1Jn 3:16-18 *Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.*

1. How the world perceives the love of God
 - a. Based upon personal sacrifice for another person
 - b. God laid down His life for us – as a Man.
 - 1) It was real
 - 2) It was painful
 - 3) It was for others, not Himself
 - c. We love first out of obedience (1Jn 5:2)
 - d. And THEN we get the ability to love out of compassion
 - e. Because we get the ability to love
2. Open up your compassion – don't hold it back
 - a. Let it hurt you when you care
 - b. Let others hurt you when you care (Ps 35:11-15)
 - c. The most important thing is to FEEL, and CARE about others!
3. Be worried if you don't have any compassion (Gal 6:10)
 - a. Not just on the world around you – they are hurting
 - b. But especially on the household of faith – the brethren
 - c. If you don't have love towards other believers, how can you say you have experienced the love of God?
4. Love in action, and in sincerity

- a. It is easy to say I love you – it is important to say it a lot (Song of Solomon)
 - b. It is much harder to love
 - c. What are the acts of love (Col 3:12,13)?
 - 1) Forbearing
 - 2) And Forgiving
 - 3) And one more... Pleasing (2Pet 1:17)
 - 4) To Forbear is:
 - a) To endure! To abstain, avoid, forgo, go easy, hold back, refrain, restrain yourself, avoid confrontation, to pass-over, to pass up an opportunity, to refuse to attack, to starve one's anger and frustration,
 - b) It is a readiness to resist the urge to hurt someone back!
 - c) It allows for love to continue!
 - d) The opposites would be: to give in, indulge your feelings, yield to your anger towards someone that you are commanded to love
 - e) In other words, a Christian is commanded to Put up with each other, AND to stay in love with each other!
 - 5) To Forgive is:
 - a) To not exact payment. To treat people better than they deserve (Eph 4:32)!
 - b) When people wrong you, justice dictates that they OWE you, and you have the RIGHT to demand of them some kind of payment for all the suffering they have caused you
 - (i) Maybe an apology
 - (ii) Maybe some grovelling
 - (iii) Maybe JAIL
 - c) But if you forgive them you DON'T demand payment; you actually end up freely giving good for their evil
 - d) It will cost you to do those three!
5. Do you know what the Bible says we should do with all anger? Divorce ourselves from it and replace it with acts of compassion and love and forbearance, and forgiveness and pleasing!

F. Conclusion

1. What are the marks of being a child of God?
 - a. RIGHTEOUSNESS
2. What is another one?
 - a. LOVING THE BRETHREN
3. How do people start loving the brethren?
 - a. GETTING CONVERTED!
4. What are the dangers of anger?
5. What should you do with envy and anger?