



LESSON 2: 1 JOHN 2

¹ My dear children,

I write this to you so that you will not sin.

But if anybody does sin,

we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins,

and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

³ We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands.

⁴ Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar,

and the truth is not in that person.

⁵ But if anyone obeys his word,

love for God is truly made complete in them.

This is how we know we are in him:

⁶ Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

⁷ Dear friends,

I am not writing you a new command but an old one,

which you have had since the beginning.

This old command is the message you have heard.

⁸ Yet I am writing you a new command;

its truth is seen in him and in you,

because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

⁹ Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness.



¹⁰ Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light,
and there is nothing in them to make them stumble.

¹¹ But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness.
They do not know where they are going,
because the darkness has blinded them.

¹² I am writing to you, dear children,
because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

¹³ I am writing to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young men,
because you have overcome the evil one.

¹⁴ I write to you, dear children,
because you know the Father.

I write to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men,
because you are strong,
and the word of God lives in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.

¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world.

If anyone loves the world,
love for the Father is not in them.

¹⁶ For everything in the world—



the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—
comes not from the Father but from the world.

¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away,
but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

¹⁸ Dear children,
this is the last hour;
and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming,
even now many antichrists have come.

This is how we know it is the last hour.

¹⁹ They went out from us,
but they did not really belong to us.
For if they had belonged to us,
they would have remained with us;
but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One,
and all of you know the truth.

²¹ I do not write to you because you do not know the truth,
but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth.

²² Who is the liar?
It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ.

Such a person is the antichrist—
denying the Father and the Son.



²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father;
whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

²⁴ As for you,
see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you.

If it does,
you also will remain in the Son and in the Father.

²⁵ And this is what he promised us—eternal life.

²⁶ I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray.

²⁷ As for you,
the anointing you received from him remains in you,
and you do not need anyone to teach you.

But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real,
not counterfeit—

just as it has taught you,
remain in him.

²⁸ And now, dear children,
continue in him,
so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

²⁹ If you know that he is righteous,
you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.



1 JOHN 2 • LOOK AT THE TEXT

1) 5 W'S & H (WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, HOW)

Who are the main characters in this passage? List everything we learn about the individuals or groups.

- Jesus

- God the Father

- The recipients of the letter – Part 1. (In this section, just list the names that John gives to them throughout this chapter. What does he call them?)

- What do these “names” reveal about John’s heart towards the people he is writing to? How does he feel about them?



- The recipients of the letter – Part 2. In this section list what John says is true about them.

- V 12-14

- V 20-21

- V 27

- What** is John proclaiming? (look at the 3 times the word “proclaim” appears and note what he’s saying)

- The Antichrist(s)



In his letters (1, 2 and 3 John), John, the apostle, is addressing false teaching within the church. Some people are claiming to be Christians but it's all just words – they aren't bearing any 'fruit'. Others are leaving the church to follow different ideas; they aren't believing what the apostles have been teaching about who God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are. As people leave the church, the 'true' Christians are wondering whether they have somehow misunderstood, and if they need to re-adjust their thinking. So John is writing to tell them...

1. That people who say they are Christians should 'test' themselves to see whether or not their faith is genuine.
2. That true Christians can be assured of their right standing before God.

Both of these emphases are evident in 1 John 2, and the rest of the chapters we will study.

As we continue on in our study, we will see John repeatedly tell the believers to evaluate themselves on the basis of 3 tests:

1. The moral test – do you obey God's commands?
2. The doctrinal test – do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God
3. The love test – do you love God and his children?

We begin to see these themes of testing and proof in 1 John 2.

What is the proof...

- That we have come to know him?
- That we are in him?
- That we are in the light?
- That someone is in the darkness?
- That it is the last hour?
- That someone is not "one of us"?



- That someone has been born of him?
 - How does this list convict and challenge you?

What are the commands of John in this text, and **Why** is he giving each command? (*hint: you don't have to come up with the 'why' answer on your own! The authors of scripture usually tell us why they are giving us specific commands in the verses right before or after a command*)

- Command #1 - (v 15)
 - Why?

- Command #2 (v 24, v 27)
 - Why?

- Command #3 (v 28)
 - Why?

John says that he is not teaching people a new command.
When did people first receive the command?



Why is John writing to them? He gives several reasons in this chapter.

- v 1

- v 12-14 (you don't need to write down all the individual reasons in this section because you did this earlier under "what is true about the recipients). If you think about the reasons that John is writing this book (which I outlined earlier), why do you think he's writing these things to them?

■ v 21

■ v 26

Pulling this all together, then...

What are the main ideas recorded in this chapter? How would you summarize each section?

- 1 John 2:1-6

- 1 John 2:7-11

- 1 John 2:12-14

- 1 John 2:15-17

- 1 John 2:18-27

- 1 John 2:28-29



2. LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD

Whole Bible Connections – Look up the following verses from other parts of scripture and note how they relate to 1 John 2. What do they affirm about what John is saying in this chapter?

- About Jesus being our advocate and the atoning sacrifice for our sins?

- Romans 8:31-34

- Hebrews 7:23-25

- 1 Timothy 2:1-7 (Read 1-7 for context and then focus on v 5)

- Colossians 1:15-22 (Read 15-22 for context and then focus on v 20)



About the “tests of love”

- Leviticus 19:9-18 (Read 9-18 for context and then focus on v 18)
 - Does this help you answer the “when” question asked earlier??

- John 14:18-24

About remaining in Jesus

- Read John 15:1-17
 - What is the benefit of remaining in Jesus? Why should we do this?

 - What happens to those who do not remain in him?

 - How do we remain in him? What do we need to do according to these verses?



3. LIVE IN LIGHT OF THE TEXT

- What is God saying to us in this passage about His purpose for our lives?

- How do the main ideas in this passage strengthen or challenge me to repent and change?
 - My Head – thoughts; beliefs; frameworks

 - My Heart – desires; emotions

 - My Hands – behaviours; deeds



■ How should these main ideas influence and change my prayers?

□ Adoration – What can I praise and thank God for?

□ Confession – What do I need to repent of?

□ Supplication – What will I ask God for?