

1 John 1:5-2:6

1. _____ in the _____ : Expose _____ , _____ it,
be made _____. (v. 5-10)

2. Trust _____. He is your _____ , not your _____. (v. 1 John 2:1-2)

Love PERFECTED

WEEK 2
WALKING IN THE LIGHT: A CASE STUDY

3. To _____ Christ is to _____ Christ. (v. 3-6)

DAY 1

Pray: In 1 John 2:12, John states one of the reasons that he is writing to the believers. He says, "I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake." Meditate on this truth now. If you have believed upon Jesus, He has taken care of your greatest need: the forgiveness of your sins! As you begin studying today, thank the Lord that through Christ your deepest need has been met. Ask the Lord to give you eyes to see the truth of who He is as you search His word.

Memorize: This week we will be memorizing 1 John 2:17. Write our memory verse on the lines below and read it aloud a few times.

Study: Today and tomorrow we will focus on the contrast of darkness and light as we study 1 John 2: 7-11. Begin by reading our passage.

1. What do you learn about God in this passage? _____

2. What do you learn about yourself? _____

3. What is intriguing about the command that John is giving (vs 8)? _____

4. The question comes to mind: how can the command John gives be old and new at the same time? To help us grasp John's intent, turn to Matthew 5:21-22. What is Jesus saying here?

6 times in Matthew chapter 5, Jesus takes an old command and gives it a new twist. That is exactly what John is doing in chapter 2. He's telling his fellow believers that though the idea he's presenting isn't a new one to them, the depth of this command in Christ takes on a whole new level! They are now called to love each other as Christ loves them, from the heart, and not just by the letter of the law.

5. What evidence does John give that the command he is writing is true? (vs 8) _____

A great heresy had split the believers John was communicating with. Many people had deserted the group of believers and those that were left wanted to know that they had sided with the truth. We need this knowledge so deeply in our world today: there is Truth to be known! Let's do a little word study to grasp the fullness of verse 8.

6. Listed below are some important words from verse 8 and their meanings. Use the meanings to rephrase verse 8 in your own words.
- a. new: *new in development or opportunity because not found quite like this before*
 - b. commandment: *order, charge*
 - c. true: *something that is attested because it's been tested, true in fact, what can't be hidden*
 - d. darkness: *spiritual obscurity*
 - e. passing away: *departing, disappearing*
 - f. TRUE light: *the genuine, full revelation of God's faithfulness through Christ, the manifestation of God's self-existent light*
 - g. already: *after a time of waiting, what is not yet strictly present but affects the present*
 - h. shining: *to become visible, clear, to shed light*

- _____
- _____
7. God's word, his truth, pushes back the darkness. Are there any areas of your life where you need the truth of Christ to push back darkness? _____

8. Write a prayer of response right now to the Lord. In it thank Him for opening your eyes to the truth. Ask Him to continue to push back the darkness in your life, and commit to walking in the truth of who Christ is. _____
- _____
- _____

DAY 2

Pray: In 1 John 2:13, John tells his listeners that another reason he is writing to them is, "because you know him who is from the beginning." Meditate on this truth. In Christ you know God! This knowledge is a personal experience, not just a factual knowledge. Thank the Lord that you can know him, and ask Him to give you a personal experience with him as you study today.

Memorize: Continue memorizing 1 John 2:17 by repeating the first phrase aloud, "And the world is passing away along with its desires". Emphasize different words as you repeat the phrase a few times.

Study: We will continue today in 1 John 2:7-11 as we learn about the characteristics of those in the darkness and the light. Begin today by reading 1 John 2:7-11.

1. According to verses 9-11, what are the characteristics of a person "in the light" and one who is "in darkness"? Compare the 2 people by filling in the blanks below.

One who is in the light:

- a. _____ his brother
- b. _____ in the light
- c. in him there is no cause for

One who is in darkness:

- a. _____ his brother
- b. _____ in darkness
- c. does not _____ where he is
_____ because his eyes
are _____

2. Write down the verbs that are used in verses 9-11. _____

Most of these verbs are in the present tense. This means when John says "loves his brother" he is saying that a person characterized by the light is in the habit of loving his brother continually. The person who "hates his brother" is in the habit of hating his brother continually. What habit or pattern do you see in your life? _____

3. What does John mean here by love and hate? And who is the brother that he is referring to? Using the biblical definitions listed; record what you would see in the actions of a person in the light and the actions of a person in the darkness.

a. love: *to prefer, a discriminating affection that involves choice and selection, to regard the welfare of, to live through Christ by embracing his will and choosing his choices especially by loving fellow believers.*

b. hate: *detest, to love less, to esteem less, to renounce 1 choice in favor of another, to choose your own way over God's by not loving fellow believers.*

c. brother: *fellow believer*

A person who lives in the light would: _____

A person who lives in the darkness would: _____

4. Let's look now at some other key words in verses 9-11.

a. To live in the light means to abide in it or be rooted in it. What are some ways that you can be rooted in the light? Describe specific habits or actions that would help you to stay rooted in the light. _____

b. Now let's look at the contrasting picture of darkness that John gives us. To walk in darkness means to conduct one's life in spiritual obscurity and to be subject to error and sin, to be ignorant of divine things which results in misery and wickedness. John says in verse 11 that the person living like this does not know where she is going because she has been blinded, or she is unable to discern the truth because a haze of smoke is keeping her from seeing. What actions do you need to take today to root yourself in the light so that you aren't stumbling in the darkness? _____

5. Look back at your answer to question 3. Does your life demonstrate the characteristics of a person in the light or of a person in the darkness? Give evidence to support your answer.

6. According to John, there is no middle ground when it comes to where we stand before the Father. We are either in the light, or we are not. And one mark of living in the light is love for our fellow believers. The commentator Alford says, "Where there is not love, there is hate, for the heart is not empty." Take some time now to think about what is in your heart. Write a prayer of response to the Lord, confessing to Him areas of your life that do not stand up to the test of the light. Ask Him to help you walk in the light as you love as Jesus loves, from the heart.
-
-

DAY 3

Pray: In 1 John 2:13, John identifies another reason he is writing to the believers, "because you have overcome the evil one." Meditate on this truth. Satan, the evil one, has no power over you because of Christ. He has no power to alter who you are in Christ! Pray now and ask the Lord to help you to live from this position, as an overcomer. Pray for understanding and clarity of mind as you study today from His word.

Memorize: Continue memorizing 1 John 2:17. Repeat the second part of the verse now, "but whoever does the will of God abides forever." Emphasize different words as you repeat it a few times. Then add the first phrase you learned yesterday. Repeat the verse in its entirety now.

Study: Let's continue our study of 1 John 2 by looking at verses 12-17. Read the passage now.

1. After giving his dear ones clear instruction and challenging them to follow in Christ's steps, John takes some time to assure his readers that he is confident in their position before the Father.
- a. Who are the groups of people that John addresses in verses 12-14? _____
-

Many scholars suggest that these groups refer to the different levels of spiritual maturity represented by the people to whom John was writing.

- b. What are the reasons that John gives to each group for writing to them?
children: _____
fathers: _____
young men: _____
- c. What do you think that John wanted to accomplish as he reminded his readers of who they are in Christ? _____

- d. How can remembering who you are in Christ help you as you seek to live in the light?

2. Now let's move to verses 15-17. Earlier in chapter 2, John talked to his readers about one characteristic of living in the light: loving fellow believers. Now he gives another clear marker of those living in the light. What is it? (vs 15) _____

3. What is the world that John is referring to? Look at the biblical meanings to help you understand this important command.
- a. love: *take pleasure in, esteem, a love of reason*
 - b. world: *the ordered system, worldly affairs, the whole circle of earthly goods, endowments, riches, advantages, pleasures, etc.*
- In your own words, what is John telling us? _____

4. According to verse 15, if anyone loves the world what is not in him? _____

5. Again John makes it clear that there is no middle ground in our hearts. Jesus also makes this clear in Matthew 6:24.
- a. What does Jesus tell us in this verse? _____

 - b. Why is it that you can't have both things: the Lord and the world? _____

6. John specifically lists for us the parts which make up the world. Record them on the blanks below.
- a. _____: lust or eagerness for the things of self, when a desire for something (even a good thing) becomes a need that dominates my life
 - b. _____: a desire aroused by what I see (especially feeling envy or jealousy for what others have that I don't), a desire for beauty without the godness of God.
 - c. _____: empty presumption which trusts in the ability of earthly things, to boast in what I have or do either publicly or secretly, to take pride in my talents, accomplishments, abilities, possessions, or appearance with no acknowledgement of the Lord.
 - d. Notice that John is equating love for the world with issues of the heart. Our heart is where love for the world is cultivated, evidenced by our desires. What are some areas where you are tempted to allow love for the world access into your heart? _____

7. What other reason does John give in verse 17 as evidence that we should not love the world?

8. In contrast to the world which is passing away, who will live forever? (vs 17) _____

9. It's time for a heart check. Ask the Lord to show you any area in your life where you are loving the world more than Him. Write a prayer of confession and response after taking some time to listen. _____

DAY 4

Pray: In 1 John 2:21, John tells the believers that he's writing to them because they know the truth. Thank the Lord that you can know the truth. Thank Him that He is guiding you to know the truth. Ask him to continue to open your eyes to truth as you study His word now.

Memorize: Continue memorizing 1 John 2:17 by filling in the blanks below.

1 John ____:____: And the _____ is _____ along with its _____,
but _____ does the _____ of _____ forever.

Study: Today and tomorrow we will be looking at the next section of scripture in 1 John 2: 18-27. Read the passage now.

1. To understand John's purpose and intent in this section, we must understand the circumstances surrounding the believers to whom John is writing. Why is John writing these things to the believers? (vs 26) _____

A great heresy had been circulating in the church. Because of this, many people had left the company of believers. (see verse 19) The heresy that was circulating involved a belief called Gnosticism. The Gnostics denied Christ's humanity. They said that Jesus only appeared to have a body, but in reality he did not come in the flesh. Many denied that Jesus was the Messiah. The lies spread by the Gnostics led many people astray. Let's look back now at 1 John 2 to see how John responds to these circumstances.

2. What time does John say it is? (vs 18) _____
3. Because it is the last hour (the time near to Christ's return), who is coming? _____

4. John refers to 2 types of "antichrists" here. The first is a specific reference to the one person at the end of the age who will oppose Christ (see Daniel 11:36 and Ezekiel 38 and 39 to read specific prophecies about "the antichrist"). John also makes reference to many antichrists. According to verse 22, what would make a person an antichrist? _____

5. The word antichrist in this passage means to take the place of Christ, acting against or opposite of Christ. John makes a clear distinction: either you are for Christ or against him. Our culture can agree that Jesus was a good person, a great teacher, and a humble leader. The truth is any person who does not confess Jesus as Savior and Lord is living as an antichrist. Think about the ways that we see the "spirit of antichrist" revealed in our world today. What examples can you think of?

-
-
6. It seems that the people that John is writing to doubted their own understanding of the truth because of all that was happening. What are some tests that John gives to these believers that they are on the right path? (vs 19, 20, 21, and 23 are a few places where you can find ways for the believers to test for themselves where they stand) _____

-
7. How can these tests help and assure you in your own walk? _____

-
8. Let's look more closely at verse 23. John is laying out a specific test for the believers. Regarding Christ, we have 2 responses that we can make. What are they? _____

The verbs used here are in the present tense. Either we are denying the Son (habitually contradicting or refusing to affirm or confess) or we are confessing the Son (habitually professing, praising, and acknowledging him).

9. Let's think further about our confession of Christ in our day to day life. What evidence is there in your life that you are confessing the Son? (Think about how your words, actions, and attitudes profess the Lord, praise Him, and acknowledge Him in your circumstances. If nothing comes to mind, how can you intentionally improve your confession of Christ?) _____

-
10. End your study time today by writing a prayer to the Lord. In it renew your confession of Jesus as the Savior and Lord of your life! Ask the Lord to empower you to make a clear profession of Christ in your daily life: in word, in actions, and in attitudes. _____
-
-

DAY 5

Pray: In 1 John 2:24-25, John says, "Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father." Meditate now on this verse. Picture yourself abiding in the Son and the Father. Picture the true message of the gospel abiding in you. Ask the Lord to make this truth a reality in your life as you study today.

Memorize: Say our memory verse out loud now. Then write it on the lines below.

1 John __: __:

Study: Today we will continue to study 1 John 2: 18-27. Begin by reading the passage.

1. Look at verse 24. John has been talking to his readers about the antichrist and has given them "tests" to help them recognize true followers of the Lord. He now gives them a clear command. What is it? _____

Let's break this command down. Listed below are biblical meanings for the phrases found in verse

24. Use these meanings to help you answer the questions that follow.

- a. Let what you heard: *to hear God's voice which prompts Him to birth faith within, to learn*
- b. from the beginning: *the initial starting point, referring most likely to the initial point of faith in a believer's life*
- c. abide in you: *something that has established itself permanently in a soul and always exerts its power*

- i. Summarize the command in your own words: _____

- ii. What do you think is the original message that John is referring to that must abide in each of us? _____

According to the footnotes found in the ESV study Bible, "what you heard from the beginning" refers to "the original and authentic saving message of Christ's death for sin and his conquest of death."

- iii. What evidence can you give that the original message of the gospel is abiding in you?

2. What two things result from "what you heard from the beginning abiding in you"? (vs 24 and 25)

3. Praise the Lord now for the hope of these promises! Ask him to help the gospel abide in you to its fullest potential!

4. Let's look now at the "anointing" that John refers to in verses 20 and 27. According to HELPS Word-Studies the word used for anointing means the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit guiding the receptive believer into the fullness of God's preferred will. What do we learn about the anointing of the Spirit from these 2 verses?

from verse 20: _____

from verse 27: _____

5. It's clear that when we confess Jesus as Christ we are given the Holy Spirit who teaches and guides us. Let's look at a few other translations of these verses which can shed some light on what John is saying. Use the translations listed to answer the following questions.

verse 20: (Amplified) But you have been anointed by [you hold a sacred appointment from, you have been given an unction from] the Holy One, and you all know [the Truth] or you know all things.

verse 27: (Living Bible) But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, in your hearts, so that you don't need anyone to teach you what is right. For he teaches you all things, and he is the Truth, and no liar; and so, just as he has said, you must live in Christ, never to depart from him.

- a. In reference to the phrase "you know all things", what are the things that we know through the Spirit? _____

 - b. What is John saying to the believers? (Consider the context of the passage as John is writing now about not being deceived) _____

6. John ends this section by repeating the command, "Abide in Him (verse 27)."
- a. What are some habits that can help his word remain in you so that you can abide in him?

 - b. Pick one habit that you listed above. How can you plan to better implement this habit into your life? _____

 - c. What is the result of abiding (see verse 28)? _____

7. End your time today with prayer. Thank the Lord for the anointing of the Spirit that he has given you as a believer that guides you into truth. Ask the Lord to help you to intentionally "let what you heard from the beginning abide in you" so that you can continually abide in him.