

3 Johns Study Series
Study #2: The Spirit of the Antichrists
1 John 2:1 - 29
Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

In the introduction to 1 John chapter 2, who is Apostle John addressing and what is the first lesson of chapter 2 that we ALL must take heed to?

1 John 2:1-2

- 1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:
- 2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

“My little children” is referring to new converts in the faith of Jesus Christ, growing up as new born spiritual babies.

The first lesson is simply SIN NOT. Do not break any of the commandments of God. Remember, sin is the disobedience to God’s law, the Ten Commandments (1 John 3:4).

What does the Bible say about those who break any of His Ten Commandments?

James 2:10

10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet **offend in one point**, he is guilty of all.

What does Jesus say?

Matthew 5:19

19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

1 John 2:1, 2 also reveals that if we sin we can repent and ask for forgiveness of sins because Jesus is our advocate as the “propitiation for our sins.”

Advocate (Greek) = paraklētōs [par-ak'-lay-tos]

Strong's: “An intercessor, consoler: - advocate, comforter.”

Thayer Definition:

1) summoned, called to one's side, especially called to one's aid

1a) one who pleads another's cause before a judge, a pleader, counsel for defense, legal assistant, an advocate

1b) one who pleads another's cause with one, an intercessor

1b1) of Christ in his exaltation at God's right hand, pleading with God the Father for the pardon of our sins

Propitiation (Greek) = hilasmos [hil-as-mos']

Atonement, that is, (concretely) an expiator.

Expiator = Jesus is our atonement for sin. He removes us from sin if we repent and confess our sins.

If we say that we know God, what will we do?

1 John 2:3

3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

Jesus says,

John 14:15

15 **If ye love me, keep my commandments.**

John 15:10

10 **If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.**

What does the Bible say to them who say they know God, but do not keep His commandments?

1 John 2:4

4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

Many ministers who reject the commandments of God, in particular the seventh day Sabbath commandment, the Bible calls them liars. (period)

Ministers who may go to church on Sabbath but break other commandments throughout the week are also liars.

All in Babylon are in a habitation of devils and also a habitation of lies because they refuse to be obedient to ALL of God's Ten Commandments.

What does 1 John 2:5 say about those who keep God's Word which includes the Ten Commandments?

1 John 2:5

5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the **love of God perfected**: hereby know we that we are in him.

Keeping ALL the commandments of God perfects us in the love of God!

All those who are truly the faithful people of God MUST follow the example of Jesus Christ.

1 John 2:6

6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

Jesus is our example and we MUST talk, walk, and do as Jesus. Human beings ARE NOT the standard of righteousness – only Jesus.

1 Peter 2:21-22

21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

What does John say next?

1 John 2:7, 8

7 Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.

8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

What does Jesus say?

Matthew 22:36-40

36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

The first four commandments show us how to God and the last six show us how to love others. On all these hang the Ten Commandments and the testimony of the prophets.

How will those who profess to walk in the light treat others?

1 John 2:9-11

9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

Does true love excuse sin?

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

If we truly love our brother, we will give them the truth and nothing but the truth in Christ. To “sugar coat” and excuse sin is not showing love but hate.

Who is John's target audience in 1 John Ch. 2?

1 John 2:12-14

12 I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

14 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

Little children are the new disciples growing in Christ.

Fathers in the context of 1 John 2:13,14 are experienced teachers or elders of God's Word who train others to be true disciples in Christ

Young men are the students of God's Word who take heed to the training from the true elders in Christ.

It is always beneficial to learn from someone with experience in God's Word.

If we are the true people of God, what are we instructed NOT to love?

1 John 2:15

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

What does the world promote?

1 John 2:16

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Lust (Greek) = epithumia [ep-ee-thoo-mee'-ah]

Thayer Definition:

1) desire, craving, longing, desire for what is forbidden, lust

The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life are the main things that the world promotes.

Lust of the flesh = doing things that are designed to please the sinful flesh.

Those who live by the satisfaction of the flesh will hate the law of God and the spiritual things of God.

Romans 8:4-8

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

It is impossible for those who continue in the world's activities, entertainments, and attractions to understand and do the true spiritual things of God.

Lust of the eyes = watching the forbidden things that promote sin against God. This will include all the movies of Hollywood and most of the programs and channels on TV.

Today's fashions are the inventions of Satan that promote the lust of the eyes by exposing parts of the body that arouse sexual desires.

God's people should learn true modesty and not expose body parts that will cause others to lust and sin. Our clothes should be clean, neat, and loose fitting (not sagging) with plenty of coverage! Amen!

"All matters of dress should be strictly guarded, following closely the Bible rule. Fashion has been the goddess who has ruled the outside world, and she often insinuates herself into the church. The church should make the Word of God her standard, and parents should think intelligently upon this subject. When they see their children inclined to follow worldly fashions, they should, like Abraham, resolutely command their households after them. Instead of uniting with the world, connect them with God." - Ellen White, Child Guidance, p. 430

True Christians will not partake in the Devil's programs, games, and entertainments that promote any form of sin.

Psalms 101:3

3 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

Psalms 119:34-37

34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.
 35 Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.
 36 Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.
 37 Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.

What is the third thing the world promotes based on 1 John 2:16?

Pride of life. In this context "pride of life" is referring to self confidence; depending on self instead of God.

Jeremiah 17:5-9

5 Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm (pride of life), and whose heart departeth from the LORD.
 7 Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.
 9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Self confidence or "self esteem" is widely taught in our society today. We don't need self esteem we need God esteem, trusting in Him instead of self!

How long does lust last compared to those who do the will of God?

1 John 2:17

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Only what you do for Christ will last throughout eternity.

What warning does John give concerning antichrists?

1 John 2:18-23

18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

20 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

23 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

Antichrist = Thayer Definition: 1) the adversary of the Messiah

Promotion of worldliness is the spirit of the antichrist. Those who love the world is an adversary of Christ.

James 4:4

4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

What must we do in order not to have the spirit of the antichrist?

1 John 2:24-25

24 Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.

25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.

Abide = remain, stay, & dwell

What does John record Jesus saying concerning this?

John 15:1-7

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Make your home the home of Christ. Remain in Him and His Word will remain in you.

Is your home, body, and mind a dwelling place for Jesus? Or is it a habitation of devils? Does it promote the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or the pride of life? Or does it promote Jesus?

How does the second chapter of 1 John conclude?

1 John 2:26-29

26 These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.

27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

29 If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

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