

1st John study - review of chapter 1 and 2

- 1:1 - John was an eyewitness from the start of Jesus' earthly ministry. Jesus is real, and not a spirit or vision. And His resurrection wasn't just a Spirit or a vision.
- 1:2 - John is an expert eyewitness - and we declare to you what we saw and heard, and felt
- 1:3 - John saw how Jesus dealt with false teachers that refused to repent. He saw many that Jesus confronted directly for their sin and they did repent. These experiences changed John's life. John hates sin and loves righteousness, so John sweet consistent fellowship with the Father and Jesus.
- 1:4 - John writes these things so his listeners can enjoy that sweet fellowship with Father and the Son. So all of them can have that sweet joy and fellowship together.
- 1:5 - Jesus' message and life are light = righteousness and no darkness at all (but humans have many darkness leanings)
- 1:6 - Sixty years after Christ went back to the Father, the churches had many "if we sayers" that claimed to be followers of Christ, but their lifestyles was full of many intentional sins. John calls them liars because they do not practice the truth.
- 1:7 - Followers of Christ walk in obedience - light. They have fellowship with the Father and Jesus. And the blood of Jesus keeps on cleansing all their sins. They all have sweet fellowship.
- 1:8 - But, "if we sayers" become hardened, or dull, or blinded to their own sins - they deceive themselves. They wandered away from God and truth, preferring some secret sins/rebellions they love.
- 1:9 - Followers of Christ are honest about sins they fell into - they confess and God cleanse. Because they have that eternal partnership with the Father and Jesus -> God considers it a righteous obligation to forgive His adopted children/partners from all their sins, as they are confessing.
- 1:10 - But the "if we sayers" have drifted so far from God's truth that they got where they don't think they have ever sinned. God says "all have sinned". But, the Holy Spirit immediately convicts people of sins. The "if we sayers" are so deceived that they get where they think God is falsely accusing them.
- 2:1 - My little children, please do not sin ever again, and we have God's power available to help us. But, if and when we sin, Jesus is our defense Attorney and High Priest.
- 2:2 - Jesus' own blood paid for our sins.
- 2:3 - How can you know who is a Christian? They live in a pattern of obedience to God's Word.
- 2:4 - "If we sayers" say: "I know Him", but don't live in a pattern of obedience - they're liars.
- 2:5 - Followers/Disciples of Christ obey God's Word as a "grateful obedience"
- 2:6 - Followers/Disciples of Christ must keep growing to become more and more like Jesus.
- 2:7 - Followers of Christ love each other for godly reasons. That commandment is in the Old and New Testaments. Brotherly love is not a new commandment, just a fresh reminder.
- 2:8 - Brotherly love is new in that Jesus' ministry showed how & what it is, and what it's not.
- 2:9 - And, brotherly love is an essential doctrine: "he who says" he is living in God's light, but hates his brother "is in darkness until now".
- 2:10 - Brotherly love fulfills all of God's commandments - Review the 10 Commandments.
- 2:11 - He who hates Christians (A) is in darkness (B) walks in darkness (C) does not know where he is going, [and] (D) darkness has blinded his eyes.
- 2:12 - But when we made our agreement with God: (A) We have willfully sinned against Him and His holy standards many times, (B) We know that we deserve to suffer eternal punishment, (C) Yes, we agree to become dead to sin and daily become a "new person" - we are given the power to become children of God. We made an agreement or partnership. That starts our journey into renewing our minds as children of God.
- 2:13 - Spiritual fathers (mothers) have maturity into living a principled life of obedience - not moved by sinful ambitions.
Spiritual young men (women) are making great progress at not being guided by their human ambitions, but rather by spiritual principles - be careful - be watchful for every wind of doctrine
Spiritual little children - they have started the journey - they need lots of care and guidance as they learn to love the truth - painful.
- > Of course there are so many stages in between these three examples.
- 2:15-17 - This is what the unsaved people love - it's the devil's system, traps, and schemes and fairy tales - deceptions.
- 2:18-19 - It's the last hour, many antichrists. They stopped walking with us because they're not of us.