

Purity to Fellowship with God

1 John 2



1 John: Four Purposes of this Letter

- 1. To make our joy “Full” or Complete** (1:4)
- 2. To warn us about habitual Sin** (2:1)
- 3. To Refute False Teachers** (2:26) - “ I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray.”
- 4. To Assure us of our Salvation** (5:13) - “that you may know you have eternal life” and continue to believe in the name of the son of God.

1 John Background

False Doctrine: Gnosticism

a heresy that took root in 1st century, and for 2nd and 3rd century was a stronghold that infected the church.

1. **All physical matter is evil**, therefore Jesus did not have a physical body, he was a phantom spirit
2. Since only the spirit matters, **anything you do physically doesn't matter**

1 John Background

False Doctrine: Gnosticism

The Problem:

- They were using the physical to gratify their sinful nature and they **lived life like they were not saved!**
 - YOU CAN LIVE AND DO WHATEVER you want!! The spirit saves you so you can do whatever!

1 John Background

John's Teaching:

1. Our Belief must match our behavior!
2. Our Beliefs should also **CHANGE** us and make us appear different from this world!

The Greatest threat to
Christians is not persecution
from the world, but seduction
by the World.

1 John 2

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.**

1 John 2

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.**

1 John 2

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.** 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.

Roadmap: 1 John 2

1. Pursue Purity and Obedience (v. 1-6)

**2. No Room for Hate and Judgment
(v 7-11)**

3. Do not Love the World (v 15-22)

I. Pursue Purity and Obedience(v.1-6)

1 John 2:1-2

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.

“So you will not Sin” → **What is Purity?**

I. Pursue Purity and Obedience(v.1-6)

Purity is **Holiness** in Mind, Body, and Spirit.

Matthew 5:8 → Blessed are **the pure in heart**, for they will see God.

John addresses this because of the importance of our **relationship with God** ([1 John 1:3](#)), and the fact that **sin can break our fellowship with God** ([1 John 1:6](#)).

I. Pursue Purity and Obedience(v.1-6)

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Advocate:

- **An Advocate:** a person who comes to our aid or pleads our case to a judge. Advocates offer support, strength, and counsel and **intercede** for us when necessary. The Bible says that Jesus is an Advocate for those who've put their trust in Him
- Advocate comes from the Greek word **parakleton**, which means **“helper, advisor, or counselor.”**

Jesus our Advocate:

“Father, I know this one has sinned and violated our commands. **He/She is guilty as charged.** However, you have said that my sacrifice is sufficient payment for the debt he owes.

My righteousness was applied to their account when they trusted in me for salvation and forgiveness. **I have paid the price, so they can be pronounced ‘Not guilty.’ There is no debt left for him to pay”** (Romans 8:1; Colossians 2:14).

This is the Good News!

**But do you truly know
Him?**

1 John 2:3-6

³We know that **we have come to know him if we keep his commands.** ⁴Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands **is a liar**, and the truth is not in that person. ⁵But 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.**

II. No Room for Hate and Judgment (v7-11)

1 John 2:7-8

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.

- **Old Commandment: Leviticus 19:18** → ‘Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but **love your neighbor as yourself**. I am the LORD.

II. No Room for Hate and Judgment (v7-11)

John 13:34-35 IS THE NEW COMMAND!

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. **As I have loved you**, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

II. No Room for Hate and Judgment (v7-11)

Jesus dying on the Cross is **AGAPE Love!**

The cross points in four directions to show that the love of Jesus is:

- **Wide enough** to include every human being.
- **Long enough** to last through all eternity.
- **Deep enough** to reach the most guilty sinner.
- **High enough** to make us Holy/Set Apart.

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1 John 2:9-11

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How we love and accept and empathize with other Christians, shows us if we truly love Christ.

II. No Room for Hate and Judgment (v7-11)

It is all too easy for people to place “ministry” or “being right” above love in the body of Christ. **We must do ministry**, and we *must* be right in God, **but we must do it all in love** – if not in perfect actions, then following with proper repentance.

- Enduring Word

Mary Slessor
1848-1915

Scottish
Missionary to
Nigeria



Mary Slessor 1848-1915

“Lord **the task is impossible for me but not for You.**
Lead the way and I will Follow”...

"The only thing I know that can make anyone dare such is 'Love and Selflessness'"



II. No Room for Hate and Judgment (v7-11)

8 Ways we can Love our Neighbors:

- 1. Serve others:** Help those in need (James 1:27; Matthew 25:35–36).
- 2. Be kind and gentle:** Speak truth with patience, avoiding gossip or harsh words (Ephesians 4:29).
- 3. Forgive freely:** Extend mercy like God has forgiven you (Colossians 3:13).
- 4. Share Resources:** Give food, shelter, money, or time to those struggling (Acts 2:44–45).

II. No Room for Hate and Judgment (v7-11)

8 Ways we can Love our Neighbors:

5. Encourage Spiritual Growth: Teach, mentor, or disciple others.

6. Bear Burdens: Help those struggling with sin, grief, or hardship (Galatians 6:2).

7. Unity: Avoid division, gossip, or jealousy; promote harmony

8. Be an Advocate: Stand up for the oppressed, marginalized, or weak.

III. Do not Love the World (v 15-17)

1 John 2:15-17

¹⁵ “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.”

THE WORLD - *Kosmos* is often a description of a world system opposed to God.

Ephesians 2:2-3 lists the world (along **with the Devil and our Flesh**) as one of the enemies of our soul. Satan is called “the ruler of this world” (**John 12:31**).

III. Do not Love the World (v 15-17)

1 Peter 5:8-9 → ⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy **the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.** ⁹ **Resist him, standing firm in the faith,** because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

Luke 22:31 → ³¹ “Simon, Simon, **Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat.** ³² But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

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There are 3 sins that are **deadly interconnected traps**.

Fleshly Lust – Cravings for physical or sensual pleasure outside of God's will

Coveting/Jealousy – Comparison and discontentment

Pride of Life – Boasting in status, success, or possessions.

III. Do not Love the World (v 15-17)

1. Sin is a fallen condition

Romans 3:23 — “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

2. Sin **Separates us from God**

Isaiah 59:2 → Your iniquities have separated you from God..

3. Sin has **Consequences**

Romans 6:23 → For the Wages of Sin is Death...

III. Do not Love the World (v 15-17)

Jesus is the SOLUTION to Sin.

We cannot fix sin on our own. We need a Savior.

Conclusion

1. Walk in the Light in Purity of Heart

→ ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.

2. Evaluate how you love others. Are you loving them with Christ love and investing in people in a Godly way?

3. Confess your Sins and Repent! Sins are traps but God will forgive you!