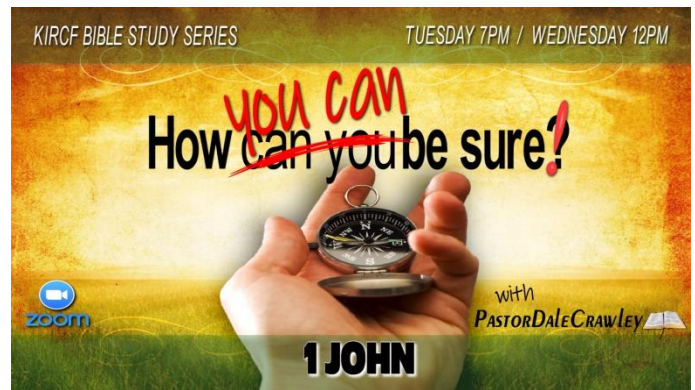


1 John Chapter Two: “Truth About Fellowship”

In this second chapter the Apostle John now widens and deepens his teachings and instructions about true Christianity.



GOD WANTS US TO KNOW HIM. Christianity is not just knowing about God or knowing certain doctrines or following certain moral precepts. It is essentially to know God. Jesus said John 17:3, *“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”*

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Christianity at its heart is, knowing God personally through Jesus Christ, who revealed God to us. ***If you do not know Him personally, you are not a Christian ... no matter how correct your doctrine or how faithful your church attendance!*** You may have been raised in the church and you may always have adhered to Christian morality. But if you do not know God personally, you are not saved!

There is a vast difference between knowing about a person and knowing that person. I may know many things about President Biden, by reading the news or watching TV. But I do not know him personally. I've never met him or spent any time with him. In the same way, you may know a lot about God .. but if you have not entered into a personal relationship with Him through faith in Jesus Christ, you do not know God personally!

The Apostle Paul was a rabbinical student and Pharisee steeped in Judaism. He knew the Hebrew Scriptures. He meticulously kept the Jewish rituals and feasts. As to the righteousness of the Law, he said that he was blameless. But he said in Phil. 3:8, *“... I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ.”* *In other words, Paul knew a lot about God ... but he didn't know God personally until he came to faith in Jesus Christ!*

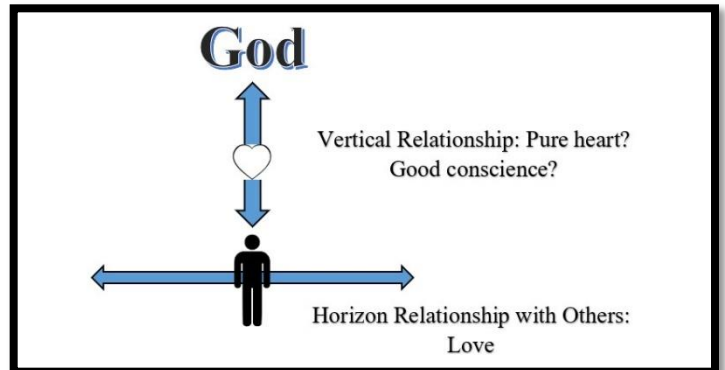
FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD ... 5 Major Points

FIRST ... fellowship includes following Christ as our “advocate”. John does not want believers to sin. *However, if and when they do, he wants them to know there is an advocate: Jesus Christ* (1 John 2:1). Christ covered the sins of all the world (2:2). Those who keep His commandments are demonstrating that they truly know Christ (2:3). Those who do not keep His commands, but say they have fellowship with Him, are “liars” (2:4). Those who walk in Christ, as Christ walked ... **give evidence** that they are **“in”** Him (1 John 2:5–6).

Living in sin (i.e., walking in darkness, 1:6) and committing a sin (2:1) are not the same. We cannot **practice** sin. We must abstain from **“every form of evil”** (1 Thess. 5:22). Sins of thought, word, and action are **all** inappropriate for our lives. Our lives must not be characterized by **habitual** sin.

SECOND ... believers are commanded to love one another (1 John 2:7–14). This was not a new commandment (2:7), but one given from the beginning by Christ. **Hate for one's spiritual brother or sister is incompatible with fellowship with Christ** (2:9). **Love is often defined as the single most important sign which the world uses to identify a Christian.** (John 13:35) Those who love their fellow brother show they are **“in the light”** (1 John 2:10).

- This is another test to determine if we are in the light. ***If we think, talk, and behave like the darkness, we are in the darkness.*** If we are in the light, as He is in the light we will be concerned about others with a love for their souls.



We may profess love, but our actions will tell the story. The seriousness of hate is, in part, because those infected with malicious hearts do not acknowledge it (2:11) ... it leads to spiritual ruin! For this reason, we must examine our lives in light of the Scriptures ... not on the basis of our feelings or pretensions. A Christian must be Christ-like. He must live with redemptive concern for his brethren.

THIRD ... believers are not to love the world (1 John 2:15–17). This refers to those who prefer worldly, non-spiritual things to godly things. **“The world”** is a phrase often used to refer to the sinful, material attitudes of mankind. **Those who love the world more than Christ prove that the love of the Father is not in them** (2:15). Such attitudes are not from the Father ... but the world (2:16).

In 1 John 2:1-11, the apostle outlines three tests of fellowship with God: **keeping** God’s commandments, **exemplifying** Christ in our lives, and **loving** the brethren. Now, in verses 12-17, John focuses our attention on another test: **separating** ourselves from worldly standards of living.

Since we are saved, we ought to be separated. The world lives according to the principles of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (2:16). These standards are nigh unto passing away (i.e., they are temporary, earthly, and lead to destruction).

FOURTH ... John calls his time the "last hour" (2:18). Believers are warned against teachings of "antichrists," or false teachers (2:18–27). These liars deny Jesus is the Christ (1 John 2:22).

John discusses the need for Christians **to adhere to the truth, and reject error**. He writes, "And as for you, let that abide in you which ye heard from the beginning" (2:24). Similarly Paul writes ... **"As therefore ye received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and builded up in him, and established in your faith, even as ye were taught, abounding in thanksgiving"** (Colossians 2:6-7).

KEY VERSE: 1 John 2:20-21 ... ²⁰ **But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.** ²¹ **I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.**" (NKJV)

- **ANOINTING:** Greek **chrisma** (khris'-mah); an unguent or smearing, i.e. (figuratively) the special endowment ("chrism") of the Holy Spirit:

John outlines the reasons they should **"let that abide in you which ye heard from the beginning"** (2:24). What they had been taught was **from Him** (2:27). Since this was divine revelation, it **was all-sufficient** (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Because it was from God, **it was true** (2:27).

Let Truth Abide In You (1 John 2:24-27)

²⁴ **Therefore let that [Truth] abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.** ²⁵ **And this is the promise that He has promised us — eternal life."**

²⁶ **These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you.** ²⁷ **But the anointing [The Holy Spirit] which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it [The Spirit's expression / personality] has taught you, you will abide in Him [The Holy Spirit]."**

False doctrine can "lead astray" (2:26); it endangers the prospect of life eternal (2:25).

FIFTH ... believers are called to remember their position as children of God (1 John 2:28–29). They are to abide **in Him** so they will not be ashamed when He returns (2:28). **Those who do what is righteous, or right, are said to be born "of Him"** (2:29).