

STUDY GUIDE 4

1 John 2:1-14

Study warm-up: Give some thought to how you handle difficult people. What does it reveal about you?

In 1 John 1, the apostle John established a correct understanding of Jesus Christ:

- Jesus Christ is God's Son without a beginning. [He was not created.]
- Jesus Christ's blood, shed on the cross, cleanses the sin of those who place their faith in Him.
- Jesus Christ is the very Word of Life, who made it possible for believers to enter a life of fellowship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Later in the chapter John began to rectify false teaching about sin. Chapter 2 continues that stream of thought.

OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!

Read 1 John 1:5-10 (to establish context) and then read 1 John 2:1-14.

1. What roles does Jesus Christ fill from 1 John 2:1-2, and for whom does He fill them? (We will examine them more closely in just a bit!)

2. Read 1 John 2:3-11. Organize the information from verses 3-6 in the following table:

	By this we know that...	This understanding is demonstrated by:
a.		
b.		

3. John offers two examples of incorrect belief – both of them begin, *The one who says*, but then the behavior reveals the underlying incorrect belief. Summarize each occurrence.

INTERPRETATION – Lord, help me to understand it.

5. Looking once more at 1 John 2:1, does John expect Jesus' followers to never sin? (Refer back to 1 John 1:8-10.)

6. Define the following terms:

	English dictionary	Bible dictionary
a. <i>advocate</i>		
b. <i>propitiation</i>		

7. What insight do you gain from the following verses about a believer's need for an Advocate?

a. 1 Peter 5:6-9

b. Luke 22:31-32

c. Job 1:1-12

d. Revelation 12:9-11

8. To what commandment is John referring in 1 John 2:7-11? (John 13:33-35, 1 John 3:23, and 2 John 1:5 may be helpful.) How is the commandment both *old* and *new*?

9. Look once more at 1 John 2:12-14 and your diagram in question 4a. Bible scholars have a variety of views about these verses with respect to John's use of *children*, *fathers*, and *young men*. (Nearly all commentators agree that the use of present and past forms of *write* is simply a stylistic touch to the John's exhortation.)

One common view is that John is speaking to different levels of spiritual maturity: those new to the faith (*children*), those well established in the faith (*fathers*), and those in between (*young men*.) John's use of different Greek words for *children* supports this perspective. See Figure 4-1.

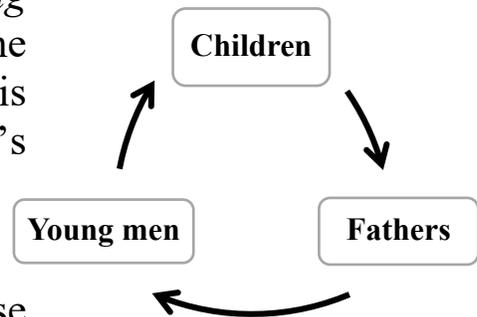


Figure 4-1

Another view is that John first refers to the entire group as *children*, as he does throughout his letter, and then addresses the older, then the younger, believers. John is preparing his recipients for his next part of the letter – *Do not love the world...* – and by reminding the older believers of their lengthy time in the faith and the younger believers of their spiritual fortitude, that each group is well-prepared for his next instruction. See Figure 4-2.

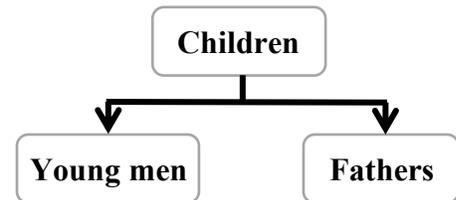


Figure 4-2

What do you think?

APPLICATION – Lord, help me to live it!

10. In 1 John 1, the reader has been encouraged to believe accurately about Jesus and to accurately view sin. Then as John continues his letter in chapter 2, he asks his readers to examine their own walk as a child of God and evaluate it. What do you note when you test your own walk? (Is obedience to God's commandments increasing? Are you consistently loving your fellow believers?) If the Spirit has convicted you of anything, now is the time to address it!

11. What do you make of the warnings in 1 John 2:7-11 about harboring hatred toward a fellow believer? Is there any of John's teaching here that you especially want to take seriously?

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

- I) What is the difference between knowing about Jesus and knowing Him?
- II) How challenging is it to personally understand that God is for you, even when you sin?
- III) Theology mystery (or not!) – in verse 2, John clearly states that Jesus is the propitiation for our sins, and not only our sins, but the whole world's. Yet the whole world is not saved – how can this be?

 Cole Women's Bible Study Writing Team, 2023

Additional Scripture for Study Guide 4

□ 1 Peter 5:6-9

⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, ⁷ casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. ⁸ Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

□ Luke 22:31-32

³¹ “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded *permission* to sift you like wheat; ³² but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

□ Job 1:1-12

There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil. ² Seven sons and three daughters were born to him. ³ His possessions also were 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and very many servants; and that man was the greatest of all the men of the east. ⁴ His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat

and drink with them. ⁵ When the days of feasting had completed their cycle, Job would send and consecrate them, rising up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings *according to* the number of them all; for Job said, “Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus Job did continually.

⁶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

⁷ The LORD said to Satan, “From where do you come?” Then Satan answered the LORD and said, “From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.” ⁸ The LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.” ⁹ Then Satan answered the LORD, “Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰ Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face.” ¹² Then the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him.” So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.

□ Revelation 12:9-11

⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels

were thrown down with him. ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying,

“Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. ¹¹ And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

□ **John 13:33-35**

³³ Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

□ **1 John 3:23**

²³ This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

□ **2 John 1:5**

⁵ Now I ask you, lady, not as though *I were* writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another.



INTERPRETATION – Lord, help me to understand it.

4. What additional insight do the following verses reveal about *the world*?

a. John 15:18-25

b. Colossians 2:6-10

c. James 4:1-10

d. Matthew 6:24

e. Romans 12:1, 2

5. Complete the comparison John makes about *the Father* and *the world*:

Love of the Father	v. 15
↓	
comes from the Father	v. 16
↓	
the one who does the will of God continues to live forever.	v. 17

6. What is the definition of *antichrist*? (The word only appears in John's epistles.)

	English dictionary	Bible dictionary
<i>antichrist</i> (G500)		

7. What is the believer's safeguard against an *antichrist*?

8. In the passage we are studying this week, John uses the word *menō*, which is translated as *remain/remains* (NASB, NIV) or *abide/abides* (ESV, KJV), seven times. What two things does John name that abide in believers, making it possible for them to abide in Christ?

9. What is true today and true in the future of those who abide in Christ?
(verses 28-29)

APPLICATION – Lord, help me to live it!

10. John plainly states that there are those in the world actively trying to deceive believers (verse 26.) How have you personally been encouraged by John in the second half of chapter 2 to avoid falling prey to false teachers?

11. Did the Spirit nudge you this week concerning loving something of this world? What will you do now?

12. How do you resemble the One of whom you have been born? (Verse 29) (You may choose to compare yourself today to yourself before knowing Christ, or to yourself as a brand-new believer.)

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

- I) We have seen from this study that new and different does not necessarily mean better. The world – especially advertisers – capitalize on our natural propensity to that which is new and different. Where might a line need to be drawn (biblically) between humanity's advancement and abiding in Christ?
- II) What would you say to someone who said, "I don't need anyone to teach me anything; I have the Holy Spirit; the Bible says so in 1 John 2:27"?
- III) One of our world's viewpoints is that many paths lead to God. What would John say to that?

 *Cole Women's Bible Study Writing Team, 2023*

Additional Scripture for Study Guide 5

□ John 15:18-25

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute

you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ He who hates Me hates My Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. ²⁵ But *they have done this* to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, 'THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.'

□ **Colossians 2:6-10**

⁶ Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk in Him, ⁷ having been firmly rooted *and now* being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and* overflowing with gratitude.

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. ⁹ For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, ¹⁰ and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

□ **James 4:1-10**

What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? ² You lust and do not have; *so* you commit murder. You are

envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. ⁴ You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: “He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us”? ⁶ But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, “GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.” ⁷ Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

□ **Matthew 6:24**

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

□ **Romans 12:1-2**

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be

transformed by the renewing of your mind, so
that you may prove what the will of God is,
that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

