



1 John

Know the Truth

- The children of God know the truth and the truth lives in them
- 2 John 1:1–2; John 8:31–32 and 42–47; John 14:6–7; 1 John 5:20
- The letter was written to “the lady chosen by God and to her children.”
- John was using “the lady” as a title or symbol for the local church and its members, and he calls believers in those churches “little children.”
- The letter has two main points: God commands us to love one another (1-6), and beware of false teachers (7-13).

Know the Truth

- John ended his first letter with this same focus on truth: We “know him who is true; and we are in him who is true” (1 John 5:20).
- In the Gospel of John, Jesus called Himself the truth.
- It is not just the Gospel message that is true, but Jesus Himself is the Truth.
- He is the way to the Father; no one comes to Father except through Him (John 14:6).
- Our faith isn't a set of rules we follow or a set of beliefs we confess. It's a relationship with a person.

Know the Truth

- In John 8, when Jesus told the people that “the truth will set you free,” He also distinguished between the Father of truth and the father of lies.
- In the same way John spent much of 1 John distinguishing between the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness.
- They did not recognize Him because they were really children of the Devil, the father of lies (John 8:42–47).
- These passages all teach that there are only two sides in our world. You are either a child of God or a child of the Devil.

Know the Truth

- Those who know the truth have grace, mercy and peace
- 2 John 1:3 and Colossians 1:15–20
- Grace and peace are typical greetings in the New Testament letters. “Peace” or shalom was a typical Jewish greeting while “grace” was a typical Greek greeting. The shalom we all are seeking comes through the grace of God.
- John added “mercy” to emphasize the message of the Gospel, that grace and peace come through the mercy of God in offering all people salvation through Christ

God's Command

- God's command is to love one another
- 2 John 1:4–6; 1 John 3:11; John 13:12–17 and 34–35
- John reminded his readers again that love is the primary commandment of God, the one out of which everything else flows (Matthew 22:37–40).
- As he had done in 1 John, he reminded them that the commandment to love one another wasn't a brand-new concept in the kingdom of God.
- God had been telling them to love one another since the beginning, since the time of Cain and Abel, and throughout the Old Testament.

God's Command

- The night Jesus gave them the “new” command to love another, He showed them by the example of the foot washing that loving someone means humbling yourself and serving that person.
- But He showed them that same thing in everything He did throughout His life and ministry.
- Even coming to earth in the flesh was an act of humility, service and love (Philippians 2:1–8).
- His death was the ultimate act of true love (Romans 5:8).

False Teachers

- False teachers teach something contrary to the teachings of Christ
- 2 John 7; 1 John 2:21–23; and 1 John 4:1–3
- We learned in 1 John that there is a coming final Antichrist who will oppose Jesus in the last days (Daniel 7:23–28; 2 Thessalonians 2:1–12; Revelation 13:1–7), but every generation will have its own antichrists.
- Any person who denies Christ as the Son of God and Lord of all creation has the spirit of the antichrist in the same way that all followers of Jesus have the Holy Spirit.

False Teachers

- These antichrists say that Jesus wasn't really God in the flesh.
- They believed He was just a human being who was a good moral teacher.
- If He did have some level of divinity, it was more like what happened to David or Samson, that God's Holy Spirit came upon Him at His baptism and left Him before He was crucified, because they didn't believe God could die.
- The incarnation – that God would become a man and then die for His people (Philippians 2:4–8) – was just too much for them to believe.

False Teachers

- The term “anti”-Christ is intentionally oppositional.
- It means someone who is against Christ.
- John described two very distinct opposing kingdoms in our world, the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of light.
- The children of God and the children of the Devil.
- You are on one side or the other; there is no gray area in between: “Whoever is not with me is against me” (Luke 11:23).

False Teachers

- John described these false teachers as “deceivers.”
- This also is not a neutral position. They weren’t just believing what they believed and leaving other people to believe what they wanted.
- They were intentionally lying, trying to deceive and manipulate people into following them away from Jesus.
- Scripture tells us that the demons know exactly who Jesus is (Luke 4:41; James 2:19). But as His enemies, they lie to the people of the world to try to keep them from following Jesus.

False Teachers

- John taught that our world is in a war between two opposing forces.
- Satan is fighting Jesus for the souls of humanity. He prowls around the earth like a roaring lion looking for people to devour (1 Peter 5:8).
- We can't think of friends and family who don't know Jesus in a neutral, innocuous way. We have to see the reality of their situation.
- They are in the grips of the Devil. They are not safe. They need to be snatched out of the fire (Jude 1:23).

False Teachers

- Scripture tells us there is one truth, only one way to the Father, and anyone who doesn't go through that narrow gate will perish (Matthew 7:13–14).
- Standing by and letting our friends believe teaching that is anti-Christ is like standing by and watching them drown and doing nothing to save them.
- If we really believe that what the Bible says is true, we can't just stand by and watch them drown.
- We must risk offending them to try to save them.

Abide in Christ

- Abide in Christ
- 2 John 8–9; John 15:1–11; and 1 Corinthians 3:10–15
- John framed this as a warning: watch yourselves.
- If you're not careful, you, too, could be led astray by false teachers.
- The warning is that we may lose our “full reward” – not salvation itself, but the full reward we may have received.

Abide in Christ

- John encouraged his readers to “abide” or “remain” in the teaching of Christ. He again focused on this concept of fellowship with God through Christ.
- True faith isn’t just about intellectual belief or verbal confession; it’s about abiding in relationship with Jesus.
- With his language, John created a contrast between those who “go on ahead” and those who “remain” with Jesus (2 John 9).
- These false teachers were trying to add something to the Gospel, saying the people needed to do more to really attain fellowship with God.

Abide in Christ

- Scripture tells us to hold fast to sound doctrine, passing it down from generation to generation (Deuteronomy 6; 2 Timothy 2:2).
- We live in a time, like the time of the Judges, when people don't want to hear absolute truths or a universal standard for morality.
- They would rather just do whatever is "right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25).
- As Paul wrote to Timothy, they want teachers who tell them what they want to hear instead of the truth (2 Timothy 4:1–5).

Abide in Christ

- Paul told Timothy to watch his doctrine closely and persevere in it because some would be pulled away from the faith by the teaching of demons and liars (1 Timothy 4:1; 16).
- The way to combat that attack is to hold fast to the teachings of Scripture, to destroy every lofty opinion raised against the Gospel and take every thought captive to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).
- The spiritual battle starts in our minds. If we want to be able to combat the lies of Satan, we must know the truth and know it well.

Don't Support False Teachings

- We need to make it clear we don't support false teachings
- 2 John 10–13, Galatians 1:8–9
- We cannot let false teachers into our churches.
- We cannot let anyone preach or teach anything contrary to the Gospel of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus.
- There may be more minor theological issues about which believers disagree, but when it comes to the core of the Gospel, we cannot agree to disagree.

Don't Support False Teachings

- John's words may seem harsh, but he was dealing with a situation in which a lot of false teaching had arisen, and a lot of people were being pulled away from fellowship with God through Jesus.
- Paul took it so seriously he told the Galatians that even if he himself came to them preaching a different Gospel, he should be accursed (Galatians 1:8–9).
- False teachers are dangerous enemies who can hurt deeply the people we love. We must be clear that they are not on our side, and we do not agree with their teaching.

Seven Characteristics of the Antichrist

David Murray

Seven Characteristics of the Antichrist

- He is Lawless
- Paul calls him “The Man of Sin,” literally “The Man of Lawlessness” (2 Thessalonians 2:3).
- He will disregard God’s Word and God’s law and replace it with his own arbitrary laws. He will re-define what is evil and what is good.
- He will promote doctrinal and ethical lawlessness.

Seven Characteristics of the Antichrist

- He is a Destroyer
- In the same verse, Paul names Antichrist as “the son of perdition,” meaning “son of destruction.”
- He will physically destroy those who oppose him; he will spiritually and eternally destroy all who believe him and follow him.

Seven Characteristics of the Antichrist

- He Opposes God
- “He opposes and exalts himself against all that is called God” (verse 4).
- Half the world oppose God and exalt themselves over Him.
- But what’s unique about this opposition is that the Antichrist opposes mainly by substitution.

Seven Characteristics of the Antichrist

- He is a Substitute
- As “Anti” can mean “instead of” as well as “against,” Antichrist can mean “replacement Christ,” “instead of Christ,” “substitute for Christ.”
- Paul confirms this when he says that the Antichrist “sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God” (2 Thess. 2:4).
- This is not necessarily an enemy from outside the church, but from inside it.
- He opposes Christ by replacing him, by taking Christ’s titles, worship, and roles.

Seven Characteristics of the Antichrist

- He is a Deceiver
- The only other person called “the son of perdition” was Judas (John 17:12).
- This theme of deception is taken up by Jesus, Paul, and John when describing the Antichrist. In fact, the dominant message from passages dealing with the Antichrist is, “Don’t be deceived!”
- Like Satan, he will come with false signs, wonders, and miracles; he will be so plausible and persuasive that, if it were possible, He would deceive even the elect (Matt. 24:24).

Seven Characteristics of the Antichrist

- He is a Heretic
- John's main concern with the Antichrist is his promotion of false doctrine surrounding the person and work of Christ (1 John 4:3; 2 John 7).
- Just like the mini-antichrists in John's day, the ultimate Antichrist will not deny everything about Christ, but just enough to undermine the power of Christ's gracious salvation.

Seven Characteristics of the Antichrist

- He is a Politician
- While Daniel and Revelation confirm and expand upon these six characteristics, their main emphasis is on the political nature of the Antichrist.
- He will head up a kingdom, even an empire, similar to other nation states or empires.
- Deception will be replaced with destruction, fraud will give way to force, the wolf in sheep's clothing will shed his fleece and bare his fangs.

Resources

