

# 1 John 2:12-17

## *Abiding in Jesus*

Image Church // First John: Week 3

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### Introduction

**Celebrate** Sam Weeks story... Powerful... There are others in here who are in the same place, and you need to join Sam next week at our Outdoor Baptism...

- **7 ppl** have already said yes, still following up with several more...
- I'm going to give you a chance to join them at the end of the sermon this morning...

**If you have your Bibles turn to the book of 1 John...**

- *Before we jump in, I want to give a big happy birthday to my bride his morning! Grateful for her life and partnership in ministry!*

Alright, **1 John**, the theme is **Assurance**...

John wants you to know that you are saved, so he shows us what saved people look like...

He doesn't want you to be led astray into thinking you're saved when you're not...

- Shows us it's not about a prayer or an emotional experience, it's about the person of Jesus being at the center of your life...
- Believing in the finished work of Jesus- clinging to the finished work of Jesus...
- Changes your perspective and your pursuit in this life...

This is so important because there's so many people that claim God but don't walk in the things of God, and John's saying if you have God, if He's saved you, then He's also changing you...

- The gospel is not just the power to save but the power that transforms...

Here's what John's going to do... He's about to make an appeal to his readers directly, and he's going to remind them of what they have received, he's going to remind them of the power they have access to, he's going to ground them in who they are and what they have received through Christ...

And then from there, he's going to challenge them ***not to be lured from the things of Jesus by falling in love with the things of this world***... That's the track for today...

Let me ask you this:

- You ever struggle with sin?
  - *No, liar, there you go, you do struggle!*
- You ever feel the pressures of the world and see the things of the world and just think, *man, I just kinda want to give up on this Jesus thing*...
- Everyone else seems to be having all the fun...
- Or what about this, do you ever feel like you don't really experience the fulfillment that's always talked about when it comes to Christianity... *Like you claim Jesus, but you really don't experience anything from Jesus?!?*
- Or here's one, Do you ever just feel *unmotivated spiritually?!?*
  - Maybe you're not unmotivated, but you're distracted, like constantly wandering away, and you're like, *what do I do about that?!?*
- Or maybe you don't really understand why this Jesus thing is so great, and maybe you're here, and you're not so sure about it all...

## 1 John 2:12-17

<sup>12</sup> I am writing to you, little children,

*Little children...* He used this same language in **1 John 2:1**... *He does this as a way of showing his affectionate heart toward these believers...*

**He says:** <sup>12</sup> I am writing to you, little children, since your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. <sup>13</sup> I am writing to you, fathers, because you have come to know the one who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have conquered the evil one.

Now he addresses **fathers** and **young men** specifically here, that **doesn't** mean that what he's saying here only applies to fathers and young men...

- *There's a cultural element to this, and probably a contextual element to this where he's addressing the old and the young to encourage them...*

**Either way**, what we need to understand is that what's true for the two groups he lists out is true for all believers...

And John has a deep desire that they get what he's saying here...

- You're going to see that 6 times he says **I write** or **I have written**... *Purpose*: emphasis around what he's saying pertaining to what they have received through Jesus!

**Illustration**: The government has a special team that's responsible for identifying and confiscating counterfeit money in the US...

- And it's really unique how they go about this process...
- You would think that they would spend hours looking at all kinds of fake money so that they would be able to identify it quickly when they see it...
- But the irony is that they do the opposite; this team trains not by spending all of their time looking at fake money but by studying the real thing...
- And it's by knowing the real thing so well that they're able to identify anything that's fake...

In essence, *this is what John's about to do in this first section...* He wants us to know what we have in Christ so that we can see through the fake things the world tries to offer us...

I think this is the gap for many of us, is that we really don't understand what we have in Jesus...

- We don't really understand that what Jesus has to offer is actually better than that what the world has to offer...
- ***We can't reject the lies of the world because we don't know and understand the truths of Jesus!***

So let's look at these **first 3 things** he holds up here about Jesus:

***You have been forgiven on account of His name...***

- The beauty of forgiveness through Jesus...

***You know the one who's from the beginning...***

- Who? Jesus, *The Word of life*...
- The creator, the sustainer... Ruler of the universe!
- In him is where you find true life because He's the one that established life...
- There's no one better to know, there's no one that can override Him...
- He is for you!
- Nothing else can sustain or satisfy like Him!

***You have conquered the evil one...***

- Satan is the essence of evil in the world, he represents all that is bad and is the most powerful source of evil...
- Jesus won the victory over Satan, sin, and death...
- He won that victory on your behalf...
- You have been liberated from the power of sin...
- Sin no longer has a hold on you...

Notice all **3** of these things have to do with **Jesus**. You see where he's fixing our eyes!

And then John's like, I'm not done (like me with my kids)... And he reiterates these truths again in **Verse 14:**

<sup>14</sup> I have written to you, children, because you have come to know the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you have come to know the one who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, God's word **remains** in you, and you have **conquered the evil one.**

He says: **You know the Father...**

- You're able to have a relationship with God because of **Jesus!**
- God is a good Father... It's a gift to know Him!
- God doesn't owe us a relationship with Him...
- Good Father... *We forget this...*

**Illustration:** *dropped Cole off at preschool...*

- *How much I love and cherish him...*
- *And it pales in comparison to the love that my heavenly Father has for me...*
- *Don't often think of God this way, but this is what His word shows us!*

Then he says again: **You know the one who's from the beginning...**

- You know JESUS!! You know who He is and what He's done for you!!... *This is what I do with yall all the time...*
- We live in a, *it's in who you know culture...* So we should get this... **NO ONE BETTER TO KNOW that GOD!**

And then he says this...

**You are strong...because God's Word remains in you...**

- *They are strong in their faith because God's Word remains in them...*
- **Strong faith and the Word are woven together...**
- *When you abide in the Word of God, it keeps you centered on the work of God through Christ...*

**Romans 10:17** **So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ. [reference verse]**

*Strong faith isn't found in your ability it's found by abiding in the Word of God...*

- God didn't leave us to figure it out or self-motivate, He gave us His Word to keep us centered around Jesus...
  - Ultimately for our good and His glory!

So this is what God has made you to be in Christ. This is what you have access to through Christ...

Now, John's going to challenge us **not to be lured from the things of Jesus by falling in love with the things of this world...**

**Verse 15:**

<sup>15</sup> **Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

When he says don't love the world or the things of the world, he's talking about the ways of the world that are counter to the things of God...

**BTW:** He's not saying to reject the **people** of this world, he's talking about the **patterns** of worldly living...

- Christians have the problem of isolating themselves from the world and that's not the call of Jesus...
- The call of Jesus is to be present in the world but don't participate in the things of this world...

He's saying don't love the sinful **patterns** and **pleasures** of this world...

- If you do love the sinful things of this world, then the love of God is not in you...

**Here's what I think one of the biggest problems is,** I think that the reason why we struggle in so many ways is because we say that we love Jesus... We want the forgiveness piece, but we also love the things of the world...

**Illustration:** it would be like if I said, *I'm having trouble really loving my wife, but I was sleeping around with other women...*

- Of course, I'm struggling with my love for her because she's not my primary and only love!

\*\*And here's what it does, it leaves us in this cycle where we claim Jesus, or we're around the things of Jesus, but we don't actually experience the fulfillment of Jesus in our lives...

This is the case for many of us... We constantly fall out of love with Jesus...

- You will never be fully satisfied in Jesus until he's your greatest love...

Then John says this in **verse 16**, he's going to show us what falling in love with the world looks like...

<sup>16</sup> For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one's possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world.

John summarizes worldly love and worldly living into **3 categories**... The **lust of the flesh**, the **lust of the eyes**, and the **pride of possession** (or *pride of life*)...

**Let's walk through them...**

**Lust of the flesh:** *Going after the natural cravings of the body... In a way that's counter to the things of God... Touch, taste, practice, participate in...*

We live in a self-indulgent culture, I got to get mine... I want what the body craves regardless of what God has to say...

The anthem, **Young Jeezy: Umma do me...**

**Examples:**

- I'm going to have sex with who I want when I want...
- I'm going to define my sexuality the way I want to define it...
- Live together before I'm married...
- Alcohol Abuse...
- Anger... I'm justified...
- Grudge holding...
- Not forgiving...
- Gossip/slander...
- Selfishness leads you... Life is about you...

**Lust of the eyes:** *cravings stirred up by what you see that shape how you live... This has to do with the mind, what you imagine, what you desire...*

- Pornography...
- Sexual desire for someone who's not your spouse...
- Self-indulgence...
- **Coveting**...
  - Desire for something that's not yours... Breeds envy, discontent, and greed...
  - Not liking the person that has what you want...
- Desire for luxury, pleasure
- It's like that **Ariana Grande** song... "*I see it, I like it, I want it, I got it*"...
- Social media feeds all of this...

**Pride of possessions:** *Pride of life... Being about the things that you can earn or obtain... Things that you can boast in...*

- Stuff
  - Impulse buying...
  - Feeling better because of what you have...
  - Needing something to keep up with everyone else...
- Status
  - Longing for this...
- Success
  - Shaped by this...

## These desires run counter to the things of God... Are you in love with the things of this world?

- What shapes your life more?
  - Calendar?
- Where does your money go?
- What drives you?
- Are you being more shaped by the things of this world or the God of this world?
  - Take inventory of your life...
  - What dictates your life, the things in the world or God?

### Verse 17:

<sup>17</sup> And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

### Adam and Eve in the very first sin in the garden...

- **Gen. 3:4-7** shows us what's behind the sin of Adam and Eve, and it's 3 things...
  - **Lust of the flesh:** Good for food...
  - **Lust of the eye:** and delightful to look at...
  - **Pride of possessions:** Can be like God.

When Adam and Eve ate of the fruit **Genesis 3:7**, their eyes were opened, and they knew that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made a covering for themselves...

\*Pursuing their natural desires didn't lead to fulfillment. It led to exposure, insecurities, and emptiness...

**Fig leaves:** an attempt to fix the problem... The problem with that is that they don't last, the leaves wither and rot, and you need to go and get more...

The thing they thought would bring them life, brought them death. The thing they thought would fulfill them left them empty...

Things of the world are temporary... They tempt and entice but never satisfy...

**Illustration:** Thanksgiving meal...

The things of God are eternal...

Some of you are in love with the things of this world... You're being enticed to believe that they will give you what you want... But they can't do that...

- It's why you're always longing for the next thing...

**Appeal for Jesus**... And how He's better...

The root cause for discontentment in the Christian life... The reason why you're not motivated, the reason why you don't experience the fulfillment attached to Christianity, the reason why you get distracted, the reason you feel like you want to give up is because you're missing the love of Jesus...

**James K.A Smith:** *You are what you love...*

## Conclusion [VAMP]

Call for salvation...

Give ppl a chance to respond...

**TEXT BAPTISM to the number on the screen**