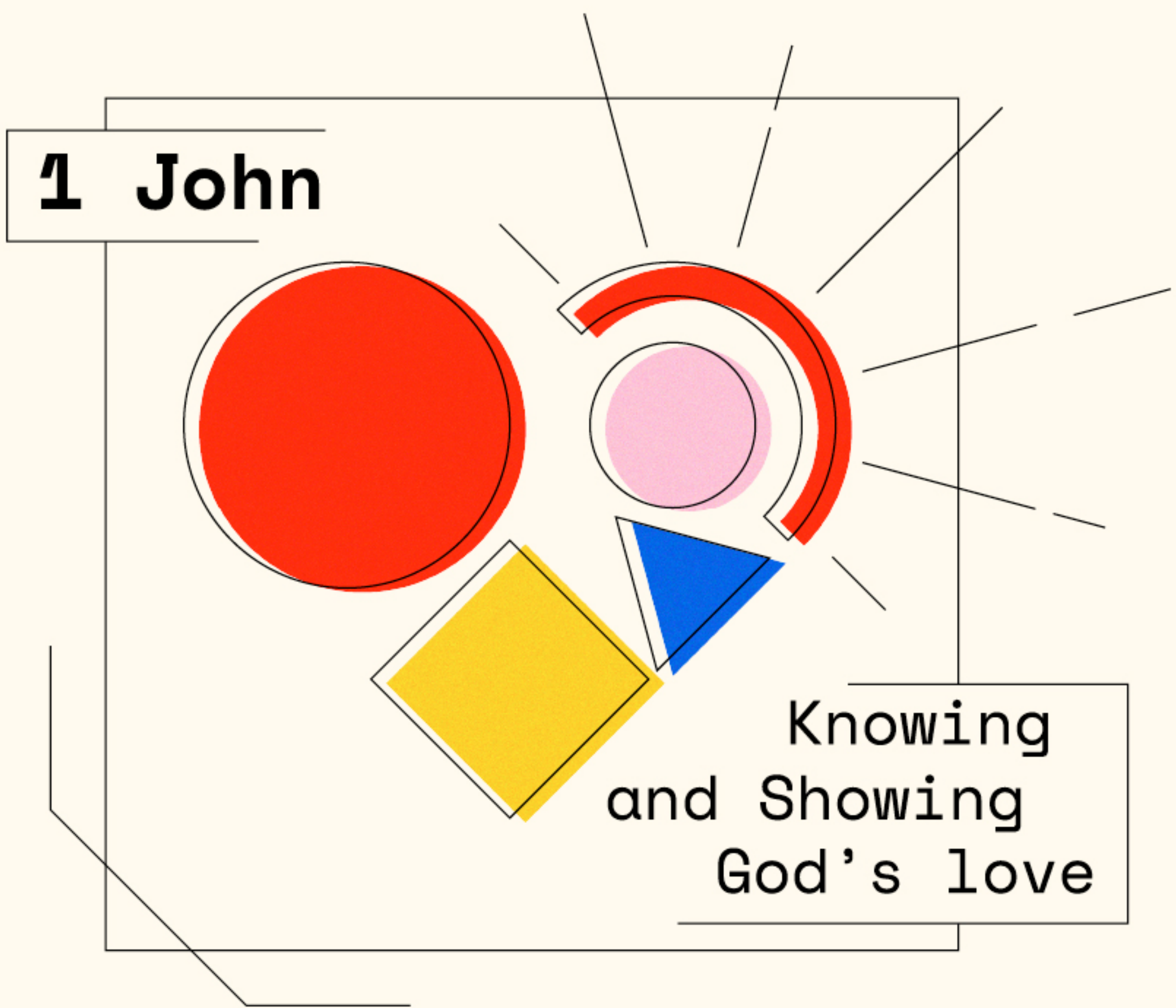


Small Group Notes

Sermon: 13 February 2022



Intro

The letter of John is full of deep encouragement & important warnings. In this section of the letter, he has two very clear warnings to the Church:

1. To not love the world
2. Warning about the antichrists.

1 John 2:15-27

15 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. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides for ever.

18 Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. 20 But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. 21 I write to you, not because you do not know

the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. 22 Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. 24 Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. 25 And this is the promise that he made to us –eternal life.

26 I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. 27 But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

Overview

Do not love the world

John makes it very clear that as we live in the light and walk in the way of Jesus, then we simply can't love the world. What John means by the world is 'the way of life' that the world champions. The dreams, desires and ambitions of the world are totally different to that of the Kingdom.

John highlights three key

ingredients to this outlook:

1. The desires of the flesh

This is talking about the temptations and appetites we have within us. The World distorts these desires and we end up being controlled by them.

2. The desires of the eyes

This is talking about the temptations from without, where our eyes are drawn to wanting things of this world in an ungodly way. The lust of our eyes leads us to placing that which we desire above Jesus. Or we place greater importance on our external appearance over our inner person.

3. Pride in Life

This is talking about having too high a view of that which we have or are in this World. We find our identity in our money, relationships or jobs that draws us away from our union in Christ.

John warns us against loving the World because it will distract us from our relationship with Christ and distort our affections for God. Jesus modelled for us a life that stood firm in the face of worldly temptations. He controlled his desires, was captivated by the will of God and embraced lack. So can we draw close to Christ and prize him above everything else.

The Antichrists

John's second warning is about the problem of Antichrist's within the

Church. The language of Antichrist is only used by John, teaching that in the end times one will come who will draw people away from God.

However, John's warning here is not about the one that will come but the many who have already come. We saw how their teaching was against Christ and His way. They denied that Jesus was the Christ, they denied the Father & Son and distorted the teaching of the person and work of the Spirit.

We saw how the challenge still exists today and we must be alert to false teaching. Paying attention to what we are listening to, reading & sharing. We also must be alert to the example we set, and whether that communicates things that are against the way of Jesus.

John ends with an encouragement that in the midst of these warnings our hope is found in God's Spirit and God's word. The Spirit and Word abide in us, lead us and empower us to live wholeheartedly for Christ.

Questions

1. How do you think you may have slipped into loving the World?
2. How can we grow at following the example of Jesus and being 'in' the world but not 'of' the world?

3. Do you think there's any teaching against the way of Jesus that our example is communicating?
4. How can we grow in our relationship & intimacy with Gods Spirit & word?