

The Letters of John: Life Eternal  
Scripture Reading: 1 John 2:12-17  
Discussion Questions

1. This is the fourth week of a teaching series on the letters of John. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> John are three consecutive letters written to a network of house churches likely around Ephesus. These churches are in the midst of a crisis. Today's reading is 1 John 2:12-17. Take time to read this passage for yourself. What stands out to you as you read? How would you summarize this passage in your own words?
2. In 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:12-14 we read a beautiful example of biblical poetry. Each section of this poem is addressed to a different group of people, "children," "fathers," and "young men." These sections are then repeated with statements that shine further light on what was said of each group. Look through verses 12-14 again, what pairings do you see? How do these pairings help illuminate what is being communicated?
3. Verse fifteen reads, "*Do not love the world or anything in the world.*" In the previous section, John spoke of God as light and those who follow Him as walking in the light. If God is light, then chasing after the things of this world is walking in darkness. The light, even now, is breaking into this world as God's people live lives dedicated to Him. We can't be people of the light and yet cling to darkness. What do you think it looks like for God's people today to walk in the light? What are some ways that we too can help the light break into the darkness?
4. At the end of verse seventeen John writes, "*whoever does the will of God lives forever.*" This is a further emphasis of last week's sermon where John said that the test of if someone truly knows God is if they follow His commands. How is this different from saying we are saved by what we do? To John, knowing God and following God are one in the same, you can't have one without the other. If someone claims to know God, but doesn't follow His commands, then they don't truly know God. If we know Him, we will obey Him. Do you find this challenging or convincing? Why or why not? What are some areas where you would like to grow in your faithfulness to following God's commands?