

Growing Older, Smarter, Stronger

1 John 2:12-17

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The Lord's Day Morning

May 6, 2018

After a sobering warning about how to test the claims of those who identify as “Christian,” John wants to assure his original readers that they really are the children of God. While those who claim to know God, but do not strive to follow the ethical example of Jesus are “liars” (2:4), John wants his original audience to know that he believes they really do know God, and have not been deceived by the false teachers who had left the church and continued to tell lies about Jesus (2:19). But his warm encouragement comes with a clear exhortation—a warning to refuse to love “the world.”

The Warm Encouragement: Kudos on Loving the Father! (12-14).

1. Little Children: All who are trusting in the propitiation of the _____ for forgiveness.
2. Fathers: Older believers who _____ to the next generation.
3. Young men: Younger believers engaged in _____ proclaiming and defending the gospel.

The Clear Exhortation: Beware of Loving the World! (16-17).

1. “Desires of the flesh”: Our God-given _____ corrupted to long for that which God forbids.
2. “Desires of the eyes”: _____ activated by what we see, leading to discontent and covetousness.
3. “Pride of life”: _____ propped up by possessions the world uses to measure status and worth.

An Anatomy of Sin

_____ : Wanting that which is not in God's will. →

_____ : Confirmation bias embraces lie-based justification from the world. →

_____ : Twisting God's Word to confirm my rationalization. →

_____ : Acting on the rationalized desire to gain short-term pleasure. →

_____ : The inevitable long-term consequences of sin. →