



## The First Epistle of JOHN

### Chapter 2:12-17

## *“A Family That Abides Together, Stays Forever!”*

### *I) Abiding Values Bless the Family of God! (v12-14)*

### *II) Abiding Values Protect the Family of God! (v15-16)*

#### (v12) *Little Children (offspring, all believers)*

- Abiding Value #1 - Testimony- *“our sins are forgiven for His name’s sake”*

(*“forgiven”*- Gk. - *aphiemi*, “to send from oneself, to send away, to bid go away or depart.” God’s forgiveness includes the putting away of our sins, their guilt, defilement, and penalty at the Cross.)

- John 3:14-17- *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

#### (v13) *Fathers (mature believers)*

- Abiding Value #2 – Fellowship - *“to know Him”* (Pray, Study, Communion, Fellowship, Sharing, Worshipping, Soul-winning)

(*“to know”*- gk. – *ginosko*, *“experiential knowledge”*)

- Believer’s Blueprint for mega fellowship is found in Acts 2:40-47 - *And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

#### (v13) *Young Men*

- Abiding Value #3 - Victory through Faith in Christ! - *“overcome the wicked one”*

(Realizing & experiencing a life lived in the power of the Spirit where their victory over Satan was a consistent one.) Luke 10:1-20 – *Rejoice!*

(v14) Young Men

- Abiding Value #4 – Living a life of Faith through Christ! - “Spiritual Strength & the Word of God”

(“Strong”- gk. - *ischuros*, “refers to power as an endowment. Strength to overcome Satan is part of the salvation given the believer.” *Overcome* is to stand victoriously on the neck of your enemy.)

- Paul writes in Ephesians 6:10-19- *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-- and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,*

## II) Abiding Values Protect the Family of God! (v15-16)

(v15) Abiding Protection #1 – Christians “do not love the world or the things in the world.”

> All that is in the world is defined as:

(v16a) The Lust of the flesh- “a craving, a passionate desire” - Galatians 5:16-26  
Flesh: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery hatred contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like. . .

Everything God says about the flesh life is negative. In Romans 7:18 it says in the flesh there is no good thing. In John 6:63 we are told that the flesh profits nothing.

A Christian is to put no confidence in the flesh according to Philippians 3:3.

Finally in Romans 13:14 we are told to make no provision for the flesh.

A person who lives for the flesh is living a sinful, negative life, and a destructive life!

- Christians are to be led by the Spirit, to live in the Spirit, and to bear the fruit of the Spirit which is: love, joy, peace longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

(16b) The Lust of the eyes - to visually incite wrong desires & practices.

(David & Bathsheba- 2 Samuel 11)

(16c) The Pride of life - Arrogance, haughtiness, boastful, always trying to impress others with their importance. The know it all! The narcissist!

- Adam & Eve: The agony of defeat! - Genesis Ch. 2:15-17; 3:1-7

- Jesus' example - Matthew 16:21-27 - *From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.*

- Jesus: The thrill of victory! - Matthew Ch. 4:1-11 - *Love His Word* - "It is written . . . It is written . . . It is written"

(v17) Abiding Protection #2 - Love Our Heavenly Father!

- And "Do His will!" - Dr. G. Campbell Morgan wrote, "*When men are wholly, completely consecrated to the will of God and want to do that above everything else, then they find out that Christ's teaching is divine, that it is the teaching of God.*"

- Be Transformed! - Romans 12:1-2- *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not con. med to this world: but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

- Be Sanctified! - 1Thessalonians 4:3-5- *For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that you should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor;*

- Be Thankful! - 1Thessalonians 5:18- *In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

- Be Faithful! - Hebrews 10:36-39- *For you have need of patience, that, after you have done the will of God, you might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.*