

The First Epistle of JOHN

Chapter 2:12-17

“A Family That Abides Together, Stays Forever!”

> In this passage of Scripture we discover that God PROVIDES FOR US (v12-14) and PROTECTS (v15-17); as the family of God we must ABIDE IN CHRIST, IN GOD, TO BE BLESSED AND VICTORIOUS!

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

(v12) Little Children (offspring, all believers) – Abiding Value #1 - Testimony- “*our sins are forgiven for His names sake*” (“forgiven”- Gk.- *aphiemi*, “to send from one’s self, to send away, to bid go away or depart.” God’s forgiveness includes the putting away of our sins, its 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.*

(v13a) Father (mature believers) – Abiding Value #2 – Fellowship - “*to know Him*” (Pray, Study, Church) (“*to know*”- Gk. – *ginosko*, “experiential knowledge”) **Acts 2:40-47**

(v13b) 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 – Live a life of Faith through Christ! - “*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.” To overcome is to stand victorious on the neck of your enemy.) **Ephesians 6:10-19**

II) Abiding Values Protect the Family of God (v15-17)

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

➤ *All that is in the world:*

(v16a) The Lust of the flesh- “*a craving, a passionate desire*”- **Galatians 5:16-26** - *I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.*

➤ Everything God says about the flesh life is negative. In **Romans 7:18** it says in the flesh 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 **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 negative life and a destructive life! **Christians are to produce the fruit of the Spirit:** *Love, joy, peace longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*

(v16b) **The Lust of the eyes** - to visually incite wrong desires & practices. (*David & Bathsheeba-2 Samuel 11*)

(v16c) **The Pride of life** - *Arrogance, haughtiness, boastful, always trying to impress others with their importance. The know it all!* Adam & Eve: The agony of defeat! - **Genesis ch. 2:15-17; 3:1-7**; Jesus' example - **Matthew 16:21-27. Jesus is victorious! Let's follow His example - 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!

- The word *Abide* (Gk. – meno); as a primary verb; **to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy).**
- **How to ABIDE: John Chapter 15 – "Let's Go for God!"**