

Let's Dismiss our Kids!



Our Text:

I John 2:3-11!

Our Title:

***The Test of True
Fellowship!***

The Introduction to 1st John!

The Epistle of I John is an Intensely Practical Book!

For it is in this short epistle, that John turns our attention from theology (chapter one / head knowledge) to the everyday applications of truth in life's experiences (chapter two / heart knowledge).

I John 1:1-2:2

The CONDITIONS Needed for Fellowship!
Five Foundational Truths!

The Truth of the INCARNATION!

Jesus is the Creator who was in the Beginning

The Truth of the MANIFESTATION!

Jesus came to earth as a man / flesh & blood

The Truth in our PROCLAMATION!

You can experience “our” fellowship with God

The Truth of the REVELATION!

The message we pass on to you is this “God is Light”

The Truth about FELLOWSHIP!

Fellowship is through Jesus / Advocate / Propitiation!

This Morning in I John 2:3-11
*The **CONDUCT** that Results from Fellowship!*

In this section John sets before us a “test” that is designed to help us determine if our fellowship with God is genuine.

It is here that John now turns
from a **LOYAL Pastor** to a **LOVING Parent!**
(theology) (practice)

Summary!

I. (1:1-2:2) The **CONDITIONS** for Fellowship!

John begins his teaching by pointing out that without a correct understanding of the incarnation, fellowship with God is impossible.

II. (2:3-11) The **CONDUCT** that results from Fellowship!

John, like any loving parent, responds when he sees his children approaching danger or something evil.

- a. (2:3-11) Begins with the conclusion (Warning / Stop)!
- b. (2:12-17) Continues with a commentary (Reason)!
- c. (2:18-27) Ends with a creed (Wisdom / Affirmation)!

Let's Look at the Text!

1 John 2:3-11!



The Theme of First John!

FELLOWSHIP / 1:3!

John begins by pointing out that a believer's vertical relationship with God is directly linked to his/her horizontal relationship with man!

The Outline for Today!

II. (2:3-11) The **CONDUCT** Resulting from Fellowship:

A. (v.3) The **TEST** of Fellowship.

B. (vs.4-6) The **TRUTH** Revealed in the Test.

C. (vs.7-8) The **TEACHING** Remains Unchanged.

D. (vs.9-11) The **THEOLOGY** is to be Practiced.

Ten Signs That You're Getting Old!

You know you're getting old when:

- 1. When trying to hug in a twin bed is absurd.***
- 2. When you're the one calling the police on the loud and crazy kid living next door.***
- 3. When working at your computer is really work.***
- 4. When going out for dinner is the entire date.***
- 5. When you know the closing time of the Taco Bell nearest you.***
- 6. When you're grocery list no longer consists of macaroni and cheese, diet Pepsi, and Ding Dongs.***
- 7. When you hear you're favorite song being played in an elevator.***
- 8. When jeans and a sweater no longer qualify as being dressed up.***

The Scene of the Book!

John, now an elderly man and the last remaining apostle, pens this letter from Ephesus. He is writing to believers who are scattered, and hiding, throughout the Roman providence of Asia Minor.

The Setting of the Book!

Is persecution: from without and from within:

From without – Domitian Persecutions.

From within – Teaching of Gnosticism.

Let's Continue the Journey!

II. (2:3-11) The **CONDUCT** Resulting from Fellowship!

A. (v.3) The **TEST** of Fellowship.

Q: How can I experience the kind of fellowship that the apostles experienced when they were with Jesus?

A: Stands in the prominent position in the passages now before us (cf. v.3).

Let's Continue the Journey!

A. (v.3) The **TEST** of Fellowship – how we can know it's true!

1. By this we "**know**" – Not "oida' (head smarts)
But "ginosko" (experience).
2. Come to "**know**" Him – What I'm now about to say you know to be true from every day experience.
3. Text – Since God is Light (1:5 / no darkness), those who walk in darkness (1:6 / Lie). Thus they are not in fellowship with God. True fellowship is revealed by keeping His commandments – Love! (cf. 1:7 – blood cleanses /2:1-2 – Advocate).

Let's Continue the Journey!

A. (v.3) The **TEST** of Fellowship – how we can know it's true!

B. (vs.4-6) The **TRUTH** Revealed in the Test!

1. (v.4) The **Practical** Reality – Talk is cheap / Liar!

2. (v.5) The **Personal** Reality – Love is pure / Truth!

3. (v.6) The **Principle** Realized – Words and works go hand in hand!

It is here that John reveals the inconsistency of the Gnostic. Jesus walked the talk! He was pure both in word and deed. The Gnostic talked one way and lived another.

B. (vs.4-6) The TRUTH Revealed in the Test!

C. (vs.7-8) The TEACHING is Unchanged!

1. (v.7) I am NOT writing something new:

- a. Beloved – begins with encouragement.
- b. Be Aware – continues with exhortation.

1.) You already know **my** description of love:

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous, love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered. Does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth ...

2.) You already know **Moses'** message: Lev.19:18!

B. (vs.4-6) The TRUTH Revealed in the Test!

C. (vs.7-8) The TEACHING is Unchanged!

1. (v.7) I am NOT writing something new!
2. (v.8) I AM writing something new:
 - a. It is new because many have forgotten and forsaken the Lord's commandment to love others the way He has loved you.
 - b. Question. How has God loved you?
 - c. Answer. His love is endless (cf. 1:7 /2:1-2)!

C. (vs.7-8) The TEACHING is Unchanged!

D. (vs.9-11) The THEOLOGY is Practical!

It is here that John begins to lay the foundation for his warning in chapter four where he will focus on the heretic's false message (Acts.20:25-31a).

1. (v.9) The Challenge: Beware of false teachers.
2. (v.10) The Call: Befriend the true teacher.
3. (v.11) The Caution: Be careful.

Unlike the teaching of the Gnostic, God's message is not new. His message has remained the same since the very beginning of time – John 3:16! And since the believer has freely received God's love, it should be passed on and experienced by all those around us.

Dr. John Stott

“It is only love which sees straight, thinks clearly, and makes us balanced in our outlook, judgments, and conduct!”

John will reflect this truth in I John 3:1-2:

See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

The Outline of I John!

- I. (1:1-2:2) The **CONDITIONS** needed for fellowship.
- II. (2:3-27) The **CONDUCT** resulting from fellowship.
- III. (2:28-3:24) The **CHARACTERISTICS** produced in fellowship.
- IV. (4:1-21) The **CAUTION** when seeking fellowship.
- V. (5:1-21) The **CONSEQUENCES** of true fellowship.