

Let's Dismiss our Kids!



Let's Wake-Up the Adults!



Our Text:

I John 2:12-17!

Our Title:

The Test of True Fellowship!

Our Theme:

Fellowship with the Father!

Introduction!

The Epistle of I John is an Intensely Practical Book!

John begins, in chapter one, by focusing on theology (the understanding of doctrine or truth) and then, in chapter two, turns our attention to the everyday applications of that knowledge or truth. And he does this to remind us that head knowledge alone, without the compassion of the heart, is really no knowledge at all!

Chapter One ... Loyal Pastor!

Chapter Two ... Loving Parent!

The Scene of the Book!

John, now an elderly man and the last remaining apostle, pens this letter from the church in 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.

Our Approach to this Section!

The CONDUCT Resulting from Fellowship:

Best Explained By Last Week's Illustration!

- 1. (2:3-11) The CONCLUSION (Stop / Danger)!***
- 2. (2:12-17) The COMMENTARY (Reason Why)!***
- 3. (2:18-27) The CREED (Affirmation)!***



Let's Look at the Text!

I John 2:12-17!



Ten Reasons Why I Refuse To Wash!

1. I was forced to wash when I was a child.

2. People who wash are all hypocrites.

They think they're cleaner than everyone else.

3. There are so many different kinds of soaps out there, I just can't decide which one is best.

4. I used to wash all the time but I got bored and just stop washing.

5. I've decided to wash only on special occasions, like Christmas and Easter.

Ten Reasons Why I Refuse To Wash!

6. None of my friends wash.
7. I'll start washing when I get older and dirtier.
8. I don't have time to wash right now, I'm just too busy.
9. The bathroom is too hot in the summer and too cold in the winter.
10. The people who make the soap are only after your money.

An Overview of the Section!

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

John begins his teaching by pointing out that without a correct understanding of the incarnation it is impossible to have fellowship with God!

Summary of John's Message / Gospel of John!

Jesus said: I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you ... If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

An Overview of the Section!

The CONDITION Resulting From Fellowship:

I. (1:1-2:2) The CONDITION Necessary for Fellowship!

II. (2:3-27) The CONDUCT Resulting from Fellowship!

A. (vs.3-11) The CONCLUSION:

Fellowship is proven through obedience!

B. (vs.12-17) The COMMENTARY:

Obedience is the result of God's love!

C. (vs.18-27) The CREED:

Love is the key to fellowship!

Let's Continue Our Journey!

B. (vs.12-17) The **COMMENTARY**:

Obedience is the result of God's love!

As John turns our attention from his conclusion and to his commentary, he will explain the harsh words given in verses 4-6 and 9-11.



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B. (vs.12-17) The **COMMENTARY**:

Obedience is the result of God's love!

1. (vs.12-14) John's **COMPASSION!**

Here six short statements are given. And in these six short statements John reveals his love for the church by refusing to leave anyone out! He includes everyone – those who are weak and immature, to those who, like him, are about to go home to be with their Lord, to those now standing strong in the midst of the battle.

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B. (vs.12-17) The **COMMENTARY**:

Obedience is the result of God's love!

John's Purpose:

To encourage the believer to remain faithful!

To exhort the believer to reject false teaching!

To help the believer escape worldly temptation!

To to aid the believer as his exercises the truth!

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1. (vs.12-14) John's **COMPASSION!** *Focus Threefold:*

a. (2:12&13c) Believers: **Little Children!**

1.) (v.12) I am writing (present tense) to you who are little children (talos / immature) because your sins have been forgiven you (past action / continued results) for (reason) His name sake (1:7 / 2:1-2).

2.) (v.13c) I have written (past tense) because you already know the Him (Incarnate One), in spite of your lack of maturity (Influenced by Gnostic).

Building on verses 7 and 8!

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1. (vs.12-14) John's **COMPASSION!** *Focus Threefold:*

a. (2:12 &13c) Believers: **Little Children!**

SUMMARY:

I'm writing to those of you who are immature and weak in the faith. I'm writing to remind you that your salvation is the result of the person and work of Christ, and not your own effort. It is because of God's love for you, made evident in the incarnation of His Son (1:7 / 2:1-2), that your fellowship with the Father is secure.

The purpose of these words is to challenge the immature believer to grow up (we'll see this next week / Creed)!

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1. (vs.12-14) John's **COMPASSION!** *Focus Threefold:*

b. (2:13a &14a) Believers: **Fathers!**

1.) (v.13a) I am writing to you (present tense) fathers (those already tested and still standing strong in the faith) because you know (ginosko / present tense) Him (the incarnate one) who has been from the beginning (past action / continued results).

2.) (v.14a) I have written to you (past tense) fathers because you know (present tense) Him who has been from the beginning (past action / continuing results).

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1. (vs.12-14) John's **COMPASSION!** *Focus Threefold:*
 - b. (2:13a &14a) Believers: **Fathers!**

SUMMARY:

I have written to those of you who were tested in the past and remain faithful today. My exhortation to you is that you continue to be an example to the immature believer. Remember, your life-style is an example of what true fellowship with the Creator, through the Incarnate One, can be like.

Note: We glimpsed this in 1:4 (a joy that is over flowing).

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1. (vs.12-14) John's COMPASSION! *Focus Threefold:*

c. (2:13b &14b) Believers: Young Men!

1.) (v.13b) I am writing to you (present tense) young men (those now in the midst of the battle) because you have overcome the evil one (2:8 / darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining) through your resistance.

2.) (v.14b) I have written to you (past tense) young men because you are strong (steadfast), and the word of God abides or remains (present tense) in you, and you have overcome the evil one (2:6 / Walk in the same manner that He walked / James 4:7).

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1. (vs.12-14) John's **COMPASSION!** *Focus Threefold:*

c. (2:13b&14b) Believers: **Young Men!**

SUMMARY:

I have in the past and will continue today to write to those standing strong for Christ in the midst of the battle. My message to you is to press on in the battle for the truth. You are strong and have overcome the evil one because the word of God abides in you. (2:6 / you are walking in the same manner in which Jesus Himself walked)

John's Message: Not a New Commandment / But New (I John 2:7-8!)!

Paul's Final Message to Timothy!

II Timothy 1:13 – Retain the standard of sound words!

***II Timothy 2:1 – Be strong in the grace that is in Christ
Jesus.***

***II Timothy 3:1 – But realize this, that in the last days
difficult times will come ... narcissism,
hedonism, materialism, and rejection of
God!***

***II Timothy 4:1-5 – I solemnly charge you in the presence
of God and of Christ Jesus ... preach
the word; be ready in season and out of
season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with
great patience and instruction. For ...***

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B. (vs.12-17) The **COMMENTARY**:

Fellowship is the result of God's love!

1. (vs.12-14) John's **COMPASSION!**
2. (vs.15-17) John's **CONCERN!**

It is here that John's love for the beloved becomes even more evident. Here John focuses on the snare or trap laid before the believer by the evil one. He knows that many a Christian has fallen into the devil's pit of sin. So he now turns from words of wisdom to words of warning!

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2. (vs.15-17) John's CONCERN!

a. (v.15) The Revealing of the trap!

1.) The Command – Do not love the world or the things in the world! (Neg / Imper Mood / Strong)!

2.) The Conclusion – The believer cannot serve two masters or two kingdoms! You must choose and your choice will reveal who and what you love (I Cor.2:9 / Isa.64:4, reveals God's love toward those willing to make the right choice).

You Must Choose Today!

Matthew 11:16-19

“But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market place, who call out to other children, and say, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang the dirge. And you did not mourn’ ... Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

Joshua 24:15

“If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

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2. (vs.15-17) John's CONCERN!

b. (v.16) The Reason for the warning!

1.) The Reason – The world is built around
lust and pride (self focus)!

2.) The Reason To Reject – The believer's sin
nature causes him to
oppose the things of God. Thus, resist the devil
and his teaching from the very start!
(Reject the Gnostic error / Don't dabble in it)

We Live at a Time Filled With Fear and Confusion!

The Apostle's Advice:

James 4:4

Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

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2. (vs.15-17) John's CONCERN!

c. (v.17) The Reality of the truth!

1.) The World's Lust – Is passing away! (2:8b)

2.) The Believer's Love – Remains forever!

a.) We must choose today who we will serve.

b.) Today's choice determines tomorrows treasures.

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.