



The Command and the Encouragement

Lesson 3 (1 John 2:7-14)

Effective leaders know both how to push their group while also providing encouragement. John clarifies what commandments God has in mind that we specifically need to keep, and encourages the church by reminding them of what God had already done in their community.

I. The Great Commandment (1 John 2:7-11)

Those who refuse to keep God's commands demonstrate that they don't really know God and His love has not matured in them. The new commandment and the old are the same: to love.

A. The new and old _____ (2:7-8)

This is old commandment from the beginning and also that this is a new commandment. Jesus showed us exactly what God meant by "love," and it was a far higher bar than we realized.

B. Walking in light or _____ (2:9-11)

We often think of sin as a personal matter – something I do that's wrong. We don't always think of our sin as something that impacts others. Many Christians can give a long list of rules they have been careful not to break, but John goes deeper. If we are filled with hatred, especially for other Christians, we are self-deceived and walking in darkness.

II. The Needed Encouragement (1 John 2:12-24)

This section of the letter transitions from discussing fellowship with God and others to combatting enemies of the church. (The separate reference chart may be a helpful resource here.)

A. _____ for the whole church

John uses "children" throughout his letter when referring to the whole church (2:1, 12, 13, 18 28; 3:7, 18; 4:4; 5:21).



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A. _____ for the whole church

John uses "children" throughout his letter when referring to the whole church (2:1, 12, 13, 18 28; 3:7, 18; 4:4; 5:21).

1. You have been _____ (2:12).

The greatest comfort for any believer is that their sins have been forgiven because of the work of Jesus.

2. You have known the _____ (2:13).

For Christians, knowing God and Christ is something that is both already the case and also an area for continued growth.

B. Encouragement for those who are _____ in the faith (2:13, 14)

The call to Christians is to “grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). As we live our Christian life, we should see more than just an increase in holy living, or bible knowledge, or wisdom. Those are a result of a growing knowledge of Christ and should lead to greater knowledge of Him.

C. Encouragement for the _____ in faith

John now addresses those who were young in the faith but had seen victory.

1. You have _____ the wicked one (2:13).

The young believers in John’s group had overcome Satan!

2. You are strong and _____ through God’s Word (2:14).

As we study God’s Word and get to know God, it gives us strength to resist the devil and live a holy life.

John has laid out his purpose: so that his readers can have fellowship and joy (1:1-4). He addresses what can most quickly destroy that fellowship: sin (1:5-7). He discusses how to address sin (1:8-2:2) and how we ought to live instead (2:3-11). And finally, we he encourages the congregation (2:12-14) after exhorting them to live for God and before he begins to warn them of other threats (2:15 and following).

Christianity is about what God has done for us, not primarily about what we must do for God. But once God has saved us, He does expect us to walk in the light and to follow Him. John strikes this balance by reminding his readers of what is already true of them in Christ, but also of what they needed to do going forward.

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