



THIS IS HOW YOU KNOW: CLING TO THE TRUTH

PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE

NOVEMBER 8, 2020

TAKEAWAY:

In Christ, we have knowledge of what is ultimately true, and through the power of the Spirit we can dispel all that is false.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT:

We cannot love God and love the world. Our love for God means forsaking everything the world values for the sake of the one who saved us.

GOSPEL CONNECTION:

Christ remains at the center and foundation of our faith, constantly pointing us to ultimate and absolute truth. Anyone or anything that opposes Christ is not of the truth.

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Have you ever played the game “Two Truths and a Lie” or some version of it? Are you good at detecting someone else’s lie?
- 2 What are some ways a person can determine what is true over what is false?

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

> Read 1 John 2:12-17.

I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. ¹³ I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father. ¹⁴ I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one. ¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

- Why did John address “children,” “young men,” and “fathers”? To whom was he referring?
- In which of these groups would you consider yourself? Why?
- What are some ways we “love the world”? What indicators did John specify about how people love the world?
- How are Christians to actively fight against this type of love in their lives?

> Read 1 John 2:18-29.

Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us. ²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. ²¹ I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. ²² Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist—he denies the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. ²⁴ See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is what he promised us—even eternal life. ²⁶ I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. ²⁷ As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him. ²⁸ And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. ²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

- What did John mean by “antichrists”? What is “the last hour”?
- How did John distinguish those who remained in the truth?
- What was John’s point in writing, according to verse 21?
- Why is it crucial to abide in Christ as we seek to cling to what is true?
- How does the Spirit help guard us against deception?
- Why did John emphasize the importance of abiding in Christ? What bearing does this have on Christ’s return?
- What does our righteousness have to do with abiding?

> Read 1 John 3:1-10.

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. ⁴ Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. ⁵ But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. ⁶ No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. ⁸ He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work. ⁹ No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. ¹⁰ This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

- How has God's love been demonstrated to us?
- What are the implications of being God's child?
- What kind of sin was John referring to in these verses? Did he mean that Christians will never sin? Explain.
- How do we reconcile abiding with Christ and continued sin in our lives?
- What is the difference between struggling with sin and remaining in sin? Why is this important?
- What is the evidence of our relationship with God or lack thereof?
- How are we supposed to reconcile our pursuit of purity with the sin patterns in our lives?
- What is the relationship between practicing righteousness and loving other Christians?

APPLICATION

- 1 What lies about God are you prone to believe? What lies about yourself are you prone to believe?
- 2 Where do you need the Spirit to help you discern the truth in this season?
- 3 How are you abiding in Christ daily? What are the rhythms that help you do so? Where do you need help in this area?

THIS WEEK

- Memorize 1 John 2:21
- Read 1 John 2:12-17 on Monday
- Read 1 John 2:18-27 on Tuesday
- Read 1 John 2:28-29 on Wednesday
- Read 1 John 3:1-3 on Thursday
- Read 1 John 3:4-6 on Friday
- Read 1 John 3:7-10 on Saturday