

## 1 John 2:12-21 – Do Not Love the World

The true believer who has fellowship with God the Father, God the Son and fellow believers acknowledges that they are a sinner. They believe that they are cleansed from all their sins through the blood of Jesus Christ. They confess their sins and know that they have an advocate in Jesus Christ who will intercede for them before God the Father. The true believer obeys God's commandments and especially the commandment to love one another. Anyone who denies being a sinner, denies Jesus Christ as savior. Anyone who hates believers in Christ proves that they are not in fellowship with God the Father, God the Son or true believers. They are disobedient to God and love the darkness. The ones who deny sin and yet live lives of habitual sin are not to be trusted, listened to, or followed. They are liars.

### **Read 1 John 2:12-14.**

There may be some confusion when referring to verses 13 and 14. Older versions have a different verse division than most newer versions. The verse divisions were not in the original letter. It just makes it confusing when different versions have different verse divisions. Verse 14 seems to repeat verses 12 and 13. There are some differences however. The first difference is that verses 12 and 13 repeat "I am writing" 3 times. Verse 14 repeats "I wrote" 3 times. ESV has "I write". KJV has "I have written".

There are different opinions on who John is referring to when he says "little children" in verse 12 and "children" in verse 14. Who are the "little children" referred to in verse 12? See 2:1, 28, 3:18, 4:4, 5:21. What is true of these children?

What is true of the fathers? Who is the one "from the beginning"? What is true of the young men? (2:13)

Who are the "children" of verse 14 (or 13 depending on your Bible version)? See 2:18 and 3:7. What is true of these children? What is said of fathers in verse 14 is a repeat of verse 13. What is true of the young men? (2:14)

### **Read 1 John 2:15-17.**

What does it mean to "love the world" and "the things of the world"? What is true of someone who loves the world and its things? "Love of the Father" can be taken two ways. It can be our love for the Father or it can be the Father's love for us? Based on the context, what does "love of the Father" refer to? (2:15)

What three things did John identify as being of the world? What are some examples of each? How does worldly attachment choke out our love for the Father? (2:16)

In 2:8 John said “the darkness is passing away”. In verse 17, John said that “the world is passing away along with its desires”. What is eternal? What abides forever? (2:17)

**Read 1 John 2:18-21.**

John declared that it was “the last hour”? What is “the last hour”? There is a lot of talk about the end times and the coming antichrist. What did John say was already true in their time? How was this evidence that it was “the last hour”?

Verse 19 is stated with simple words but the message is powerful. How did John identify the antichrists? Where did the antichrists start out? Does this mean that if someone leaves a church that they are necessarily an antichrist? Back in the time of John there was, generally speaking, one church per city. If you stayed in the same city and left the church, you truly left the church. They didn’t have the United Methodist Church of Ephesus, First Baptist of Ephesus, etc.

In verse 20, what was their anointing? What was the source of their anointing? What was the result of their anointing?

What confidence did John give to his readers / hearers of the letter? How did they know the truth? See John 6:45 and John 16:13. (2:21)

If we peek at verse 22, we get a further definition of who the antichrists are. The word antichrist is a bit self-explanatory. It is a person who is opposed to Christ. It is someone who denies that Jesus is the Christ.

Wouldn’t we love it if false teachers in the church would leave on their own! Unfortunately some false teachers stay in the church to try to destroy it from within. We must be aware of false teachers inside the church as well as outside of it.