

## 1 John 2

1. Who is that which was from the beginning?

-The Lord Jesus Christ.

2. What does it mean “from the beginning”?

-That the Lord Jesus Christ is eternal.

3. Why is it important that we understand that Christ is eternal life?

-When we believe in Christ, we gain Him and all that He is which includes eternal life.

4. What does it mean to have fellowship with God?

-It means that we share our life with God, and that He shares His life with us.

5. Just like we cannot live without light, can we live without God?

-No.

6. What does it mean to “walk in darkness”?

-It means to continually live in spiritual darkness away from the light of God.

Let's read 1 John 2:1-2

1-My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

2-He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

-Who are “my dear children”?

-As John was very old when this letter was written, “my dear children” are all of us Christians who are younger than John.

-According to 1 John 2:1, why did God and John write this letter?

-Because God does not want us to sin.

-Because God wants us to be His close friends.

-Before we believed in Christ, it was sin that separated us from us from God.

-Now that we believe in Christ, we are no longer separated from God, but sin can still hurt us.

-Here is an illustration:

-If you disobey your father, even though your father will never chase you out of the house, your disobedience hurts you.

-Your disobedience hurts you and your disobedience is not the best which your father wants for you.

-When King David sinned against God, he did not lose

his salvation, but he did lose the joy of his salvation.

-This is why David prayed in Psalm 51:12 to “restore to me the joy of your salvation.”

-And while it is true that Jesus died for the sins of the whole world, there are many who do not want Christ to save them.

-Why would some people not want Christ to die for them?

-Some people think that they have not sinned.

-Some people think that they do not need to be saved.

-Some people think that they can save themselves.

-The Lord Jesus, however, only saves those who cry out to Him to be saved.

Let's read 1 John 2:3-6

3-We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands.

4-Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.

5-But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him:

6-Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

-According to 1 John 2:3-6, what is the difference between a false Christian and a true Christian?

-A false Christian will say that they know God, but they do not obey God's Word.

-A true Christian will say that they know God, and they will obey God's Word.

-Can anyone, however, completely obey God's Word?  
-No.

-Why can no one completely obey God's Word?

-Because we are all born into sin.

-How do we live as Jesus lived?

-In complete obedience to the Father.

-Serving others and not serving ourselves.

-Can a Christian live a life without any sin?

-No.

-Why can no Christian live a life without any sin?

-Because we live in a world that is full of sin.

-Because we have old habits and old ways that the Bible calls our flesh.

-The more, however, we allow Christ to live out His life through ours, the more He will do it.

Let's read 1 John 2:7-11

7-Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard.

8-Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

9-Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness.

10-Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble.

11-But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

-What is this old command that is not a new command?

-As we learn in verse 10, it is to love our brothers and sisters in Christ.

-How is this an old command?

-In the Old Testament, God told Israel that "you shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Lev 19:18).

-How is the old command to love one another a new command?

-It is new in the person of Jesus Christ.

-It is also new in all people who believe in Christ.

-We see the new command of loving others in the Lord Jesus who loved people as God wants us to love people.

-For us Christians, the new command should also be to love people as God wants us to love people,

-In the new command, God is saying this:

-“I want you to love in a way you’ve never known before. I want you to love the way I’ve loved you. That’s how I want you to love others.”

-Jesus said this: “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (Jn 15:13).

Let's read 1 John 2:12-14

12-I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

13-I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.

14-I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know 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.

-In verse 12, we know that the Word of God is writing to all Christians because the sins of all true Christians have been forgiven.

-In verses 13 & 14, the Word of God teaches us about spiritual children, spiritual young people, and spiritual adults.

-As for spiritual children, they know that God is their Father, yet much like a baby needs to grow, spiritual children also need to grow.

-There are older people who are saved, but spiritually they are still like little children.

-As for spiritual young people, they have spiritual strength through Christ who has overcome Satan.

-Their biggest enemy, however, is their flesh or their old desires which needs to be overcome.

-As for spiritual adults, they know Christ well, and are much like Christ.

-It is God's desire for all Christians that we would become spiritual adults and become like Christ.

Let's read 1 John 2:15-17

15-Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in

them.

16-For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

17-The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

-Is the world that we should not love the physical world?

-No.

-It is not the physical world because God made the physical world, and it was perfect.

-Is the world that we should not love the human world?

-No.

-It is not the human world because “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son” (John 3:16).

-What is the world that we should not love?

-It is the world of evil which is against God and whose king is Satan.

-Jesus called Satan the prince of this world (Jn 12:31).

-All who do not believe in Christ are a part of the world of Satan.

-We are either friends of God, or we are friends of this world.

-We cannot be both.  
-If we are friends of this world, then we are enemies of God (James 4:4).

-If we love God, we will hate sin as God hates sin.  
-If we love God, we will hate the world of sin.

-In verse 16, the Word of God explains what is in this world of evil, that is, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

-In Genesis 3, Satan tempted Eve with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

-Eve believed Satan, rejected God, and sin came into the world.

-What is the lust of the flesh?

-People wanting what they want instead of what God wants for them.

-What is the lust of the eyes?

-People wanting the things of this world more than wanting God.

-What is the pride of life?

-People thinking that we are more important than God, and that we do not need God.

-In Matthew 4, Satan also tempted Christ with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

-Each time, however, Christ responded with the Word of God, and overcame sin.

-Verse 17 teaches us that everything in this world will pass away.

-Only God, His Word, and people will never pass away.

Let's read 1 John 2:18-19

18-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.

-What is the last hour?

-It is these last days while we wait for the return of Christ.

-In the Bible, the word "antichrist" is seen only in 1 John and 2 John.

-What is an antichrist?

-An antichrist is someone who is against Christ and wants to take over from or take the place of Christ.

-All who are against Christ and want to take over from or take the place of Christ are antichrists.

-An antichrist denies that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior.

-In Mark 13:22, the Lord Jesus said this:

-“For false christs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”

-Verse 18 teaches us that many antichrists have come, but there will be a final antichrist whom Christ will kill at the end (Revelation 13).

-In verse 19, the Word of God is not talking about Christians who leave one church to attend another.

-Instead, these are people who used to attend church, but no longer attend church.

-These people were never Christians, but only false Christians.

-Now, we read about true Christians:

Let's read 1 John 2:20-23

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 whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son.

23-No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

-Who is the Holy One?

-The Lord Jesus Christ.

-Even the demons know that Christ is the Holy One.

-In Capernaum, when Jesus was driving a demon out of a man, this is what the demon cried:

-“What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” (Luke 4:34).

-As Christians, we have the anointing from Christ, the Holy One.

-In the Old Testament, Samuel anointed King Saul and King David to be king.

-What does anointing mean?

-To have the touch of God.

-What is the anointing that all Christians have from Christ?

-God the Holy Spirit.

-For all true Christians, Christ has anointed us with the Holy Spirit.

-For all true Christians, Christ, the Holy One, has touched us with and given to us God the Holy Spirit.

-In 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, we read this:

-“Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”

-In 1 Corinthians 12:13, we read this:

-“For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”

-In Romans 8:9, we read this: “If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.”

-In verse 22 above, we learn that anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ is an antichrist.

-Antichrists are those who deny that Jesus alone can save

us from sin, death, and Satan.

-And if you deny that Jesus alone can save us from sin, death, and Satan, then you know not God the Father.

-If you deny the Son, you deny God the Father.

-In Matthew 12:30, the Lord Jesus said this: “He who is not with Me is against Me.”

-This means that we are either Christians or antichrists.

-“If you don’t love the Lord Jesus Christ, you are cursed” (1 Co 16:22).

-With these verses, we learn that 1 John is written to teach us the difference between Christians and antichrists.

-Could we say that all non-Christians are antichrists?

-Yes.

Let’s read 1 John 2:24-25

24-As for you, 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—eternal life.

-What is “what you have heard from the beginning”?

-This is the Gospel of Christ which people first hear and believe in the Lord Jesus.

-Some people think that they need something new, but the Gospel of Christ never gets old.

Let's read 1 John 2:26-27

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.

-In the day of John, people tried to lead Christians astray.

-Today as well, people try to lead Christians astray.

-Why do we not need anyone to teach us?

-Because Christ in us and the anointing of the Holy Spirit in us teach us.

-In John 14:23, Jesus said, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

-Does this mean that we should not go to church to learn?

-No.

-We need to encouragement from our family in Christ and we need to learn as much as we can about our God.

Let's read 1 John 2:28-29

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.

-As a summary, God through John is saying this to all Christians:

-Even though we do not know everything in the Bible, we do know the foundational truths of Christ.

-We do not lack some secret knowledge that others say that they have.

-We do not need any more truth because God has given us in the Bible all of the truth that we need.

-We do not need any more power because Christ Himself lives in all Christians.

-We have all that we need because God has given us everything we need.

-We have God's Word, the Bible, and all that God has given to us as well as the Holy Spirit which means that we have everything that is necessary.