

1 John 2:1 – 11

New American Standard Version

1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that
 2 you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate
 3 with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ² and He Himself
 4 is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but
 5 also for *those of* the whole world. ³ By this we know that
 6 **+** we have come to know Him, if we keep His
 7 commandments. ⁴ The one who says, “I have come to know
 8 Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and
 9 the truth is not in him; ⁵ but whoever keeps His word, in him
 10 the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know
 11 that we are in Him: ⁶ the one who says he abides in Him
 12 ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.
 13 ⁷ Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but
 14 an old commandment which you have had from the
 15 beginning; the old commandment is the word which you
 16 have heard. ⁸ On the other hand, I am writing a new
 17 commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you,
 18 because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is
 19 already shining. ⁹ The one who says he is in the Light and
 20 yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. ¹⁰ The one
 21 who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no
 22 cause for stumbling in him. ¹¹ But the one who hates his
 23 brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and
 24 does not know where he is going because the darkness has
 25 blinded his eyes.

Observation (What does it say?):

Connect repeated words that are repeated in the passage. Use a dotted line to connect words with similar meanings.

*Use a **+** to mark positive evidence of the life John is describing. Use an **X** to mark negative evidence.*

What comparisons and contrasts does John use?

Use a “?” to mark parts of the passage that puzzle you, or that you would have trouble explaining to someone else.

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What questions come to mind as you read this passage?

How would you summarize John’s evidence for “knowing” our spiritual condition?

What does he mean by the “old” and “new” commandments? Why does he use what seems to be an odd explanation, “I am not” (l. 13), “I am” (l. 16)?

What examples does he use to explain about the commandments he has in mind?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

How do you know you are saved? What answer would John expect from you, based on what he wrote in this passage?

What forms might “relational sin” take other than “hating” another person?

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

- *What significance (if any) is John’s use of “walk” and “abide” in this passage? Is there a difference in what he intends by how he uses the two words? Or are those two ways of expressing a similar idea?*
- *John says nothing about faith or belief in this passage. In fact, in the entire letter of 1 John he only uses those words (πίστις, πιστεύω, etc.) ten times relating to Christian belief. How you reconcile his emphasis on ethics and behavior with your understanding of “saved by faith alone”?*
- *When John uses the word “hate”, how does that relate to Jesus use of the same word regarding family members (Luke 14:26)? How do you understand the word in the Luke passage, and how does that affect your understanding of John’s meaning in this passage?*

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation
(What does it say?)

*What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?*

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

Interpretation
(What does it mean?)

*What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?*

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application
(What does it mean for me?)

*What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?*

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**