

## 1 John 2:10 – 17

Holman Christian Standard Bible

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1 <sup>10</sup>The one who loves his brother remains in the light, and  
2 there is no cause for stumbling in him. <sup>11</sup>But the one who  
3 hates his brother is in the darkness, walks in the darkness,  
4 and doesn't know where he's going, because the darkness  
5 has blinded his eyes.

6 <sup>12</sup>I am writing to you, little children,  
7 because your sins have been forgiven  
8 because of Jesus' name.

9 <sup>13</sup>I am writing to you, fathers,  
10 because you have come to know  
11 the One who is from the beginning  
12 I am writing to you, young men,  
13 because you have had victory over the evil one.

14 <sup>14</sup>I have written to you, children,  
15 because you have come to know the Father.

16 I have written to you, fathers,  
17 because you have come to know  
18 the One who is from the beginning.

19 I have written to you, young men,  
20 because you are strong,  
21 God's word remains in you,  
22 and you have had victory over the evil one.

23 <sup>15</sup>Do not love the world or the things that belong to the  
24 world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not  
25 in him. <sup>16</sup>For everything that belongs to the world—the lust  
26 of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one's  
27 lifestyle—is not from the Father, but is from the world.

28 <sup>17</sup>And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one  
29 who does God's will remains forever.

### **Observation (What does it say?):**

*What do you notice in this passage?*

- Repeated words or ideas?
- Comparisons or contrasts?
- Purpose or explanation?
- Unusual or symbolic language?
- Commands or instructions?
- Conditional (if-then) statements?
- Other observations?

### **Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

*After observing the passage:*

- What parts seem clear and straightforward?
- What parts seem unclear or confusing?
- What parts challenge your previous thinking?
- What questions come to mind as you read?
- How would you title this passage?

### **Application (What does it mean for me?):**

- What parts of this passage fit your current life situation?
- What parts seem unrelated to your circumstances?
- How might this passage affect your understanding of who God is and what He is doing?
- What part of this passage would be the most challenging for you to apply?
- What would be different (attitudes, behavior) if God used this passage to change you?

**Additional questions for thought and discussion:**

- John seems to change his style abruptly in verses 12-14. Do you agree? Why might he do this?
- What kind of transition (if any) do you see between v. 11 and v. 12, and between v. 14 and v. 15?
- What would the passage be like if you went from the end of v. 11 right to the beginning of v. 15?
- What are the similarities (even repetition) and the contrasts in v. 12-14?
- How would you re-order the statements in v. 12-14 into a more logical sequence? Or is there one? Would that re-ordering corrupt John’s intent (and that of the Holy Spirit)?
- If v. 12-14 describe stages of spiritual formation, how does that affect the transition to v. 15?

**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. Benael (1687-1752)**