

1 John 2:9-17

Christian Standard Bible

1 ⁹The one who says he is in the light but hates his
2 brother or sister is in the darkness until now. ¹⁰The one
3 who loves his brother or sister remains in the light, and
4 there is no cause for stumbling in him. ¹¹But the one
5 who hates his brother or sister is in the darkness, walks
6 in the darkness, and doesn't know where he's going,
7 because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

8 ¹²I am writing to you, little children,
9 since your sins have been forgiven
10 on account of his name.

11 ¹³I am writing to you, fathers,
12 because you have come to know
13 the one who is from the beginning.

14 I am writing to you, young men,
15 because you have conquered the evil one.

16 ¹⁴I have written to you, children,
17 because you have come to know the Father.

18 I have written to you, fathers,
19 because you have come to know
20 the one who is from the beginning.

21 I have written to you, young men,
22 because you are strong,
23 God's word remains in you,
24 and you have conquered the evil one.

25 ¹⁵Do not love the world or the things in the world. If
26 anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in
27 him. ¹⁶For everything in the world—the lust of the
28 flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one's
29 possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the
30 world. ¹⁷And the world with its lust is passing away,
31 but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

Observation (What does it say?):

What do you notice in this passage?

- Circle repeated words or ideas.
- Underline comparisons or contrasts.
- Does the writer give any purpose or explanation?
- Other observations?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- What does the beginning (about light and dark) have to do with what he says to the different groups (lines 8-24)?
- What parts seem clear and straightforward?
- What parts seem unclear or confusing?
- What questions come to mind as you read?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- Where would you put yourself in the groups John addresses?
- What do his words to "your" group mean to you?
- How might this passage affect your understanding of who God is and what He is doing?
- What would be different (attitudes, behavior) if God used this passage to change you?

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

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)**