

7Day

What Type of Christian Am I?

To see what type you are:

Read the booklet
Answer the questions

7 days

Your PERSONAL
Answers

7Day
Done

7ddd.info

What Type of Christian Am I? v. 1

Presented by Al

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This book is part of the 7D Series.

Bible quotes are from the King James Version, at times updated by the author.

The author also does his own translation from the original Greek. The translation in bold is one he developed to give more info on what is actually in the text.

All images were created by the author from scratch.

In the 7D Series:

- Why Do I Exist – Why Do I Suffer?
- Am I Important?
- What Did Jesus Do For Me?
- Did I Do the Sin to Death?
- How You Fit In with God
- 27 Way the Bible Makes Me Better at Work
- What Type of Christian Am I?

Everything is written with a conservative Christian viewpoint in mind.

This book simply offers information and/or experiences and may invite you to compare your experiences with what is in this book.

This book is derived from [God WANTS You: Sin Is Not a Deal Breaker.](#)

Notes: This material is divided into 5 parts: *The Study*; *The Articles*; *The Story*; *The Workbook*; *Did I Really Learn It?*

The *Workbook* and *Did I Really Learn It* questions are all keyed to the verse numbers in the *Study*

Be sure to answer the questions- they are at the end of this booklet.

I include 2 Bible translations. The one in small letters is the King James Version update. The one in bold is one I developed to give more info on what is actually in the text.

This material is derived from God WANTS You: Sin Is Not a Deal Breaker.

This book may have dated ideas. For the most recent see the God WANTS You journals.

Insight 2 God KNOWS You

How do we know we are Christians?

The 3 types of Christians

John is writing to Christians.

2:1-2 *Jesus keeps us in relationship with the Father in spite of our violating the relationship with our sins.*

My little children, these things write I to you, that

2:1 ***My dear children or students,** ***I am writing these [things] to you in order that;**
you sin not.

explanation: **non-absolutely not you might sin; do an (evil) (standards failing relationship destroying) not witnessing act.**

And if any man sin,

And if possibly any person might sin; do an (evil) (standards failing relationship destroying) not witnessing act,

we have an advocate with the Father,

***we are having someone called alongside to help having intertwinement with the Father; originator (of a group); one worthy of honor; one who cares for others; one with authority,**

Jesus Christ the righteous:

***standard meeting (one) Jesus; Savior; Yahweh is salvation Christ; Anointed;**

2:1 Even in the context of living in light, of seeking commonality with God and Christians, we sin. Sin breaks this commonality. What is done about it? John is writing to these new Christians to encourage them to not sin. But we all sin. We all break this commonality. And God makes a provision

for this problem. And what is this provision? Jesus. Jesus comes alongside us as our advocate, our comforter, our helper. Jesus is our helper, alongside us, and He is also alongside and aligned with the Father. Jesus is 'Jesus' meaning "God is salvation", and He is 'Christ' meaning the "Anointed one", and He is 'righteous' meaning "standard meeting". All 3 of these traits come into play as He serves as our helper. Jesus meets God's standards by being a helper, and Jesus does this due to having God's lifestyle principles coming from the Father and flowing through Him, and that puts Jesus in the role of being our salvation- He does what is necessary to see that our sins are dealt with properly, so God the Father continues His relationship with us. Sin does not automatically end a person's relationship with God, it does not automatically make him no longer a Christian.

Our relationship with God is totally due to Who Jesus Is. Jesus is the standard-meeting One. He has met all God's standards in the actions of His life. He did this because He is the Anointed One, receiving the lifestyle principles to live by from God the Father and living by them and only by them. Because of God's lifestyle principles in Him, because of unconditional commitment, Jesus waited on the cross for the Father's mercies for our sins. And because of God's lifestyle principles in Him Jesus applies the Father's forgiveness for our sins and is transforming us so we also live by God's lifestyle principles. Jesus is "God is salvation". He is the only and entire source of our having a relationship with God. And...

And he is the propitiation for our sins:

2:2 and He Himself *is (means of) filling in gaps of deficiency, encircling *our ^sins; not-witnessings with their rewards,

and not for ours only, but also

*** continuing in this topic or context, absolutely not, encircling ^ours only; exclusively, but also**

for *the sins of the whole world.*

encircling *the whole harmonious orderly arrangement; decoration; world.

2:2 Jesus is our "propitiation". Jesus is Who and What deals with anything we do that breaks commonality with the Father, making it so the Father continues our relationship. Sins break the fellowship by breaking the commonality, and Jesus deals with this so the relationship with the Father is not broken. Jesus is the righteous One, and by applying God's mercies to our lives He not only applies the Father's forgiveness to the circumstance that occurred, the sin of the moment, but He also is transforming us so we are like God, we are God's INmage, so there is a commonality between God and us that leads the Father to want and accept relationship with us.

What does Jesus provide? Jesus waited on the cross for God's mercies for us, and Jesus works at applying those to our lives so we are again holy before the Father.

Jesus is our propitiation. A "propitiation" is someone or something that comes between 2 people, one of whom is offended, and provides something so the offended one is no longer offended but is instead desiring to be in relationship with the one who offended him again. The propitiation brings the 2 people back together into relationship. A propitiation doesn't just deal with the offending problem, it restores the relationship.

And Jesus not only does this for us, He does it for the entire world. For everyone. (This gives Him the right to be the Judge of all of us in eternity. And that is a role He does have- the Father assigned it to Him.)

1:5-2:2 *So we can be Christians living in Light even though we do sins, and the sins are dealt with- they don't just stick around and become permanent problems. All because of what Jesus does. It is not all about me, it is all about Jesus.*

It would not surprise me if John realized he also needed to write to Christians other than just beginners, the ones he soon calls "little children", as he wrote the next 2 to 4 verses. Here he starts to deal with the topic of obedience which is the focus of "young men". Little children focus on being in relationship with God. They are concerned about disrupting the relationship, so they emphasize the need to not sin, thinking any sin can be a deal breaker with God. They emphasize what a person shouldn't do so the relationship with God is not broken more than what he should do so the relationship with God is maximized. John wants them to realize obedience is the test for relationship, not sinlessness. "Little children" know they must obey God, but they miss its significance. So John intrudes on what "young men" focus on. Young men focus on obedience as the proof of, and therefore a major part of, being in that relationship. So it may be that the outline for the book, found in vs. 12-14, forms in his mind as he puts verses 3-6 down on his parchment, because he has started to deal with the major focus of a group of people- young men- that he had not been addressing, and he realized he had some things to say to them also.

2:3-11 *How do we know we are in relationship with God 3-6, and is it even doable 7-8, and how do I know if someone else is in relationship with God 9-11?*

2:3-6 *How do we know we are in relationship with God? Unconditional commitment is the key.*

And hereby we do know that we

2:3 **And in this we are (partly, interactively, appreciatively, applicably) knowing that we**

know him,

have with current results (partly, interactively, appreciatively, applicably) known Him,

if we keep his commandments.

**if possibly * we might be watching closely (to be in line with, preserve, keep safe) *His
^commandments.**

2:3 So now these new Christians, who may have thought being sinless was the way to tell who is a real Christian and who is not, would want to know, "How do we tell who is a Christian and who is not? How can I tell if I am a Christian?" And the answer is, if we are keeping the commandments of Jesus, which revolve around seeking relationships with people, then we know Him.

When you "know" Jesus you experience Him introducing God's lifestyle principles into your life so you live by light (seeking relationships) and not by darkness, being unconditionally committed to the well-being of others, enjoying the relationship of commonality of similarity with God and fellow Christians, resulting in you living by unconditional commitment toward God, neighbors, and fellow Christians.

When you "know" Jesus you have a relationship with God. You have knowledge of Him in your life and the word "know" itself often implies having a relationship. You know that you know Jesus, and thus that you have a relationship with God, when you do the commandments John refers to in verses 7-8. This is how you know if you or someone else is a Christian.

It is reasonable that anyone who knows God, meaning he has a relationship with God, will keep the commandments of God, since these commandments promote relationship, and God is all about forming and maintaining relationships. God is light, and the commandments promote light.

In 3-8 John starts describing "young men" Christians. Young men are definitely Christians. They are permanently Christians. They are recognizably Christians. And they have an assurance of being Christians, of salvation. Little children don't have the assurance, because they have not yet made a permanent commitment to God. Little children may keep the commandments of Christ some, but not to the extent young men do. As John describes how to know if you are a Christian, he describes a young man. The young man is described in 3, 5, 6, and 10. The young man, who is definitely a Christian, will not do the things of 4, 9, and 11, but the non-Christian might. Little children are in between, they can go either way. They can choose to stick with God, or not to. They can choose to seek to have relationships with people like Jesus commands, or not.

As John describes young men, I suspect he realizes he will be writing to them, too, and so he soon gives us his breakdown of Christians, and in a way his outline of this book, in 12-14.

He that says, I know

2:4 The one, logically presenting; saying, {that}, "I have with current results (partly, interactively, appreciatively, applicably) known,

him, and keeps not his

Him," and *absolutely not, *watching closely (to be in line with, preserve, keep safe), *His

commandments, is a liar, and the

^commandments, *he is, [a] liar; falsifier; deceptive and untrustworthy [one],, and *the

truth is not in him.

***truth; reality, *is *absolutely not, in the sphere of influence of, this one,;**

2:4 Anyone saying he knows, that is, has a relationship with, Jesus, and does not keep His commandments, is a liar. The truth is not in his statement. In fact, Jesus Who is the Truth is not in him. Jesus is not in him living God's lifestyle principles through him, bringing about a relationship based on commonality. Jesus' commandments revolve around living in light, seeking the relationship of

commonality. You don't have to be perfect, but you do have to be seeking the relationship of commonality. If you aren't doing this you don't know Jesus and if you say you know Him you are lying and Truth (Jesus) is not in you nor is truth in your statement about knowing Jesus.

But whosoever keeps

2:5 * continuing in this topic or context, whoever possibly might be watching closely (to be in line with, preserve, keep safe),

his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected:

His ^ logical presentation, *the * love; unconditional commitment to the well-being of another, *of *God with certainty, has been with current results brought to completion, in the sphere of influence of, this one.

hereby know we that we are in him.

In the sphere of influence of, this * we are (partly, interactively, appreciatively, applicably) knowing, that * we are, in the sphere of influence of, Him.

2:5 On the other hand whoever is living by- he is genuinely holding to- the logical presentation of Jesus, the teaching that God is light- He wants relationship with people, and God is love- that God is the unconditional commitment to the well-being of those He is in relationship with or wants to be in relationship with, and the teaching that he is to be living by the commandments of Jesus which have him showing the same unconditional commitment to people- whoever is holding to this teaching, no matter how faulty his attempts may be to live by God's love- God's unconditional commitment to the well-being of those He is in relationship with or wants to be in relationship with- whoever this person is has entered into relationship with God. God's goal of showing unconditional commitment to this person has been perfected, starting with having relationship with this person and moving forward- it will happen- into transformation and eventual perfection for the person. Sinlessness has not yet been perfected, seeking the relationship in a perfect way has not been perfected, but the relationship is there, and that is what counts to begin with. The rest will follow. The relationship has been accomplished.

Now we need to remember unconditional commitment means no cost is too great to maintain the relationship. This is the unconditional commitment God has toward us. That's why Jesus died on the cross. For us, the commitment may not lead to sinlessness but it will be costly at times, sometimes to the point of death.

When we have this commitment, we are in Christ. We are in God. We have a relationship with God. We know God, we have God's eternal lifestyle principles IN us, we have Christ working in us. This is how we know who is a Christian, and if we are one.

He that says he abides in

2:6 The one, logically presenting; saying, * to stay; remain, in the sphere of influence of,

him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

Him is owing due to personal moral obligation, just as that One lived as a lifestyle, also himself <in this way> to live as a lifestyle.

2:6 Anyone who claims to be living in relationship with Christ, staying within the boundaries of life that Jesus set down, ought and actually is obligated to live just like Jesus lived. And that does not mean being sinless, since John has already pointed out we all sin. It does mean having the unconditional commitment to a relationship with God and God's followers. Jesus was sinless, and He will eventually make us so, but not yet. We can't follow Him in that area, but we can and must follow Him in being committed to relationship with and the well-being of others.

2:7-8 *Is a relationship with God achievable?*

Brethren, I write no

2:7 **Brothers, members of a group one identifies with, absolutely not, I am writing,**

new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you had from

[a] *new commandment to you, but [an] *old commandment, which you were having, from

the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard

[the] origination point; *the *old ^commandment is the logical presentation, which you heard

from the beginning.

(and did) <from the origination point>;

2:7 The idea, and the commandment, to love God, to be unconditionally committed to His well-being, is nothing new. It has existed from Adam and Eve. It is clearly stated in the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20. You also find the requirement that people love, that is, be unconditionally committed to, the well-being of other people.

Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is

2:8 **additionally, I am writing, [a] *new commandment to you, which is**

true in him and

true; actively aligned with underlying reality, in the sphere of influence of Him and

in you: because the darkness

in the sphere of influence of you, because the darkness; principles and acts that attract others from commonality with God and to commonality with Satan; absence of light where things contrary to light can be done,

is past, and the true light

is being caused to pass by (and away), and *the *genuine ^light that enables discernment; principles and acts that attract others to commonality with God,

now shines.

*** is shining; conspicuously appearing (and being understandable as it really is) even now.**

2:8 There is also a new commandment, which is actually an update and expansion of the old one. We find this commandment in the Gospel of John. Love one another. Christians are to be unconditionally committed to the well-being of other Christians. This commitment is less than the commitment to God and greater than the commitment to other people. Jesus showed this exceptional commitment to His followers and we are to do the same. In fact, we are doing the same. The darkness, the separation from others as we live by an extreme commitment to ourselves at the expense of others, is passing away. It is diminishing for us. The light, the pursuit of a relationship based on the commonality of having God's lifestyle principles IN us guiding us, is already happening. It is happening in us and through us, especially toward other Christians, and others can see it. We do things for each other that exceed what others do for each other. It shows. You don't have to have a lot of Christians for it to show. Just 2 or 3 will do. Jesus is in our midst, affecting how we think and act. And it is no secret thing.

Jesus' commandments revolved around living in light, seeking the relationship of commonality.

This doesn't mean sinlessness, it does mean commitment to others. That is what shows, even in the midst of sinfulness.

2:9-11 How do I know if someone else is in relationship with God? These verses are the practical application of verse 8. These verses show how a person can tell who is and is not a Christian. And the answer has to do with light, with seeking relationship based on likeness or commonality. It does not have to do with sinfulness.

He that says he is in the

2:9 **the one, logically presenting; saying, to be, in the sphere of influence of,**

the light,

light that enables discernment; principles and acts that attract others to commonality with God.,

and hates

and hating; being committed against and detesting; being less committed to and averting from and disregarding,

his brother, is in

***his brother, member of a group one identifies with, is in the sphere of influence of the**

darkness even until now.

darkness; principles and acts that attract others from commonality with God and to commonality with Satan; absence of light where things contrary to light can be done, until now.

2:9 A person can claim to be in the light. He can claim to be a Christian. He can claim to be seeking relationships based on the commonality of having God's lifestyle principles in him. But is he living it? If his acts show he is actually not committed to Christians and is even committed against them, he is in the darkness (he is not a Christian).

He that loves his

2:10 **the one loving; being unconditionally committed to the well-being of another *his**

brother abides in

^ brother, member of a group one identifies with * is staying; remaining in the sphere of the light,

influence of the light that enables discernment; principles and acts that attract others to commonality with God,

and there is no occasion of stumbling in him.

and [a] thing that offends someone so much that he desires to go his own way rather than be in commonality *is *not in the sphere of influence of him.

2:10 On the other hand, if someone is unconditionally committed to the well-being of ("loves") other Christians, he is seeking relationships based on the commonality of having God's lifestyle principles in him and them ("remaining in the light"). He is a Christian. There may be sin that causes great division, but even then there is the desire for relationship. There is no direct attempt to lessen another Christian's stature or to cause division (scandal, "stumbling").

But he that hates

2:11 *** Continuing in this topic or context the one hating; being committed against and detesting; being less committed to and averting from and disregarding**

his brother is in

***his brother; member of a group one identifies with *is in the sphere of influence of the darkness, and**

darkness; principles and acts that attract others from commonality with God and to commonality with Satan; absence of light where things contrary to light can be done, and

walks in darkness,

*** is living as a lifestyle in the sphere of influence of the darkness; principles and acts that attract others from commonality with God and to commonality with Satan; absence of light where things contrary to light can be done,**

and knows not where he

**and absolutely not, he is generally understanding and comprehending (by experience) (how),
at or to what (locality).**

goes, because that

he is leaving without resistance but instead quietly and unnoticed, because the

darkness

**darkness; principles and acts that attract others from commonality with God and to
commonality with Satan; absence of light where things contrary to light can be done,**

has blinded his eyes.

blinded *his ^eyes.

2:11 Anyone failing to be unconditionally committed to the well-being of other Christians ("hating his brother") is not truly seeking a relationship with them based on having the commonality of eternal life, of having God's lifestyle principles IN us ("is in darkness"). He is living in this attitude of separation being okay and even good. He is purposely seeking things for himself and purposely causing divisions as he tries to get those things. This person truly does not understand what the consequences of his actions and attitudes are because he is blinded by the separation. Satan puts goals in front of us that are contrary to God's, goals of selfishness and separation, and Satan's goals can blind us to the value of the relationships God wants us in. This person does not know he is not a real Christian. He mingles with the Christians ("his brother") but is blind to the fact that his failure to be committed to other Christians means he fails to be committed to a relationship with them and thereby he fails to actually be a Christian.

So the question is answered. How do you know who is a Christian? You know by his commitment to the well-being of other Christians based on being in a relationship with them based on the commonality of having God's lifestyle principles within us. To put it simply, you know by whose best interests he has in heart, his own or that of other Christians. You can't tell by sin or lack of sin- we all sin. You know by who he makes number one in his life.

2:12-14 Now John gives us the outline to his book.

By now he realizes he is going to talk to more than just new Christians. This outline helps us make sense of 1 John. Some things will seem needlessly repetitive and contradictory if you miss the outline. I think John was writing things on the spur of the moment. He wasn't done writing to the "little children", the new Christians, but the outline came to mind next so that is what got written next. Then he added the rest of what he had to say to the new Christians as the ideas came to mind.

With this outline we can see that John first writes to new Christians, whom he calls "little children". Chapters one and two give the information he has for them. Next he writes to "young men", who are people who make an unconditional commitment to God. We find the information for them in chapter 3. Next, in chapter 4, he writes to "fathers", people who have moved beyond the obedience focus of young

men to a focus on serving others. Lastly he writes words meant for young men and fathers in chapter 5, with a final pointed message for "little children" in the last verse.

These 3 verses are a kind of parentheses in the midst of John's message for the "little children".

I write unto you, little children, because

2:12 I am writing to you, dear children or students, because

your sins

***the *sins; not-witnessings with their rewards * associated with you**

are forgiven you

have been with current results sent forth or away along with any obligation or bondage

for his name's sake.

in context of *His ^ (character, dignity, authority, reputation attached to a) name.

2:12 John writes to new Christians because or since their sins have been set aside. This could just mean they are forgiven (their guilt is being set aside), or it could mean that the process of transforming these Christians has begun, so their sinfulness is starting to be replaced with holiness. The context for this is the "name", the characteristics of, Jesus Christ. It is in and through and because of the traits of Jesus Christ that they have their sins set aside. It is because of Who Jesus is and what He is like that they have this setting aside.

I write to you, fathers,

2:13 I am writing to you, fathers; originator (of a group); one worthy of honor; one who cares for others; one with authority,

because you have known

because you have with current results (partly, interactively, appreciatively, applicably) known

him *that is* from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because

the one from [the] origination point. I am writing to you, young men, because

you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you,

you have with current results overcome the evil, hurtful. < I am writing > { I wrote } to you,

little children, because you have known

children, immature persons, because you have with current results (partly, interactively, appreciatively, applicably) known

the Father.

the Father; originator (of a group); one worthy of honor; one who cares for others; one with authority.

2:13 The next group of Christians John mentions are the "fathers". The fathers have known Jesus. These Christians have had a growing knowledge about Jesus, the one from the beginning of creation and from the beginning of this time period when we started to have a direct relationship with God through Jesus. This is a definite knowledge, maybe experiential, maybe not, but knowledge they are sure of, and one that can grow with time. And the Greek word used is the one that can imply a relationship between the known and the one having the knowledge.

Next John speaks to the "young men". These people have overcome the evil one, Satan. It can also mean they have overcome the evil, evil itself. What this means is previewed in verse 14 and seen in chapter 3.

Now John goes through the list of the 3 types of Christians again, with some variation in what he says to each one.

John says he is writing, or wrote (Greek variation), to the little children (a different Greek word, but still the idea of a young child) because they have known the Father, that is, God the Father. They have undoubtedly known fathers like the ones he is writing to, but the important thing is that they have entered into a relationship with God the Father and have a definite and growing knowledge about Him. They know about the holiness and the forgiveness of God. They have experienced relationship with God, and the knowledge and the relationship can grow. (Again, the Greek word used is the one that can imply a relationship between the known and the one having the knowledge.)

I have written to you, fathers,

2:14 I wrote to you, fathers; originator (of a group); one worthy of honor; one who cares for others; one with authority,

because you have known

because you have with current results (partly, interactively, appreciatively, applicably) known,

him *that is* from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are

the one from [the] origination point. I wrote to you, young men, because *you are,

strong, and the word of God abides in you,

forcible; strong, and the logical presentation of God *is staying; remaining, in the sphere of influence of, you

and you have overcome the wicked one.

and you have with current results overcome the evil; hurtful.

2:14 The only difference between what John wrote to the fathers the first time and this time is that this time he says "I wrote" instead of "I am writing". Maybe John had written to the fathers before, and was not initially going to again in this letter.

And John starts his second message to the young men in these verses with the past tense "I wrote" as well. He adds the idea that the young men are strong and God's Word remains in them. They are strong, meaning they are dedicated to following God's lifestyle principles. The Word of God, the logical presentation of God, remains in them, meaning they are quite familiar with the teachings of God so they know the ways of God, and they know Who Jesus is and what He is all about- they know their doctrine. And they have overcome the evil, or the evil one. This means they will not ever at any time allow God to be displaced in their lives. They will sin, but they will never ever worship Satan or any false god Satan may place before them.

Knowing these 3 types of Christians, you can see nuances of what John means as he makes what otherwise will seem like needlessly similar statements. Some theological problems are also solved, and this includes the question of the eternal security of the believer.

2:15-29 Now John continues his message for the "little children". This is naturally sound advice for all of us but he is thinking of the beginning Christian, considering more mature Christians to have moved on beyond needing to be told these things.

2:15-27 John gives information that lets us distinguish between real and false Christians. He gives us information on people who would disturb and even destroy our relationship with God.

2:15-17 John picks up his discussion from verse 11, and continues on. He deals with the general reality of what a person who "hates" his brother is like and what is wrong with that. In these verses John deals with where a Christian's allegiance should not lie and why. This also shows where a false Christian's priorities lie.

Love not the

2:15 **(Non-absolute) not love; be unconditionally committed to the well-being of another** the world,

harmonious orderly arrangement; decoration; world

neither the things *that are* in the

not even- continuing in this topic or context the things in the sphere of influence of the

world. If any man

harmonious orderly arrangement; decoration; world. If possibly anyone

loves the

might love; be unconditionally committed to the well-being of another the

world, the

harmonious orderly arrangement; decoration; world, absolutely not *the

love of the

*** love; unconditional commitment to the well-being of another * of or from the**

Father is not in him.

*** Father; originator (of a group); one worthy of honor; one who cares for others; one with authority is in the sphere of influence of him.**

2:15 Do not be unconditionally committed to the well-being of the world or the things in the world. John fills us in on what this commitment is in the next verse. If you are unconditionally committed to these things you are not unconditionally committed to God, and you do not have the same unconditional commitment God the Father has- an unconditional commitment to the well-being of others. And, also, he does not have the unconditional commitment of God showing up around him affecting him for good.

For all that is in the

2:16 Because every the thing in the sphere of influence of the

world, the lust of the

harmonious orderly arrangement; decoration; world, the strong desire of the

flesh, and the lust of the

(covenant influenced and enabled) flesh; body, human being, and the strong desire of the

eyes, and the pride of life, is

eyes and the arrogant display; quackery of the possessions and/or the life they enable *is

not of the Father,

absolutely not from; out of the Father; originator (of a group); one worthy of honor; one who cares for others; one with authority,

but is of the world.

but *is from; out of the harmonious orderly arrangement; decoration; world.

2:16 What is in the world? What is it that people get committed to and shouldn't? A strong longing of the flesh (think self-centered relationship, sex) and a strong longing of the eyes (think beauty, power, possessions or the right to access) and an arrogant self-confidence in what you are and have and can do (including seeking meaning for life separate from God and wanting to leave behind a legacy based on how wonderful you were on your own). These 3 things do not come from God the Father but from the world system which Satan controls and influences and uses to try to control and influence you.

And the world

2:17 **And the harmonious orderly arrangement; decoration; world,**

passes away, and the lust thereof:

is being caused to pass by (and away), and the strong desire of or from it;

but he that does the will

*** continuing in this topic or context, the one doing the inclination toward the pleasurable**

of God abides forever.

choice of; from God is staying; remaining, intermingled throughout, the age; perpetuity; eternity; next life.

2:17 The world system and all its strong longings is on its way to non-existence or at least will cease to matter, and its controller and originator will cease to matter. Is this what you want for yourself? To just cease to matter? You won't cease to exist, but you won't matter if you are in Hell. Fortunately, there is good news available. Anyone doing God's will, living by His lifestyle principles and bringing glory to Him, will remain "into the age". This usually is taken to mean into eternity. You will continue to matter. It won't just be some "legacy" that you leave behind that will matter, it will be you that matters.

2:18-27 *Here John deals with people who would try to sway a beginning Christian away from God, away from a real allegiance to God, giving them guidance on telling who is trying to lead them astray. And he assures them that they can tell who is teaching error and who is teaching truth, even though they are new Christians.*

2:18-21 *Deceivers are out there and it is your job to note who they are.*

Little children, it is the last time:

2:18 **Child; immature person, * it is [the] extreme period of time with recognizable end**

and as you have heard that antichrist

points, and just as you heard that antichrist; one that is alternately anointed and assumes the appearance and role of the Anointed Christ to displace Him,

shall come, even now are there many antichrists;

is coming (to be); even now *many antichrists; ones that are alternately anointed and assume the appearance and role of the anointed Christ to displace Him, have with current results come to be;

whereby we know that it is the last time.

from which we are (partly, interactively, appreciatively, applicably) knowing that * it is [the] extreme period of time with recognizable end points.

2:18 John does not define the last hour. We can speculate as to its meaning. We know one of its characteristics for sure. The antichrist is coming. The antichrist, the one who lives by lifestyle principles that are opposed to God's and who encourages others to do the same. The antichrist refers to one individual who has not come yet. He will arrive in the Great Tribulation time. However, right now there are many antichrists. These are followers of Satan, just like the antichrist is, and promote the same alternate lifestyle principles as the antichrist. They would lead new Christians astray from God. They try to lead Christians to love the world, to love sex and beauty and self-confidence and all the rest that comes attached. And we are living in this last hour or time period when these antichrists are active. That's how we know we are in the "last hour" time period.

They went out from us, but they were not of us;

2:19 * **They moved out, from; out of, us, but * they were, absolutely not, from; out of, us;**

for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us:

*** in a wider context, if * they were, from; out of, us, *possibly they would have with ongoing results back then stayed; remained, with us;**

but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

but in order that; explanation: they might be revealed in their true character so they are understandable, that absolutely not, they are, all from; out of, us.

2:19 These antichrists mingled with the Christians. They probably gave every evidence of being Christians. They may have initially been little children Christians who later decided against God and moved out of fellowship with the local church. (I'll cover the idea of little children leaving God in verse 24.) Or they may have been unsaved people who managed to mingle with the Christians for a while and then separated themselves. They definitely were not people who had entered the young man phase of being a Christian. Little child Christians and non-Christians can leave God and God's people. Young man Christians will not and cannot leave God, and they prefer to stay in a God-following local body of believers. So these antichrists were not young men Christians. If they had been they would not have left the church.

There comes a point in time when someone who is not going to enter the young man phase of being a Christian will move on. They will move out of the local God-following body of believers that has young man and father Christians. They may form their own churches, but they won't stay in the God-following church, not when they have decided to follow the antichrist's lifestyle principles of life, of loving the world. They leave the fellowship of Christians because they are not of the same mindset as Christians. They are not of the light. They do not live in love, in commitment to others, and in the lifestyle principles of God. If they had been of God's people they would have stayed with God's people. But in order that they might be shown to not be true followers of God they left, and I believe their leaving is caused by God.

It is important to know that not everyone in a church is a good role model of a Christian. Not everyone is a good person to learn from. As antichrists leave the church this becomes evident.

But ye have an unction from the

2:20 **And you *are having, [an] enabling endowment; anointing, from the one,**

Holy One, and ye know all things.

separated to and representing God; <and> you are generally understanding and comprehending (by experience) (how), all.

2:20 "And you have an anointing from the Holy (One)"- New Christians are not defenseless in the presence of the teachings of the antichrists and their attempts to lead people away from God. Little children have an anointing, an implanting of God's lifestyle principles within, so they already know God's lifestyle principles. They know about generosity and caring and not lying and kindness and worshipping only God. This knowledge comes from the Holy One, from Jesus Christ Himself, who is himself anointed- God the Father implants His lifestyle principles into Jesus, Who implants them in us. They don't have to run around trying to figure out what is God's will and ways in general because they already know. They don't know every little detail but they have an intuitive grasp given them by Jesus of what God expects and provides in general.

"and you know all"- They don't have lots of experience in the Christian life but they do have some, and they have enough, and that is combined with the anointing and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They understand their experiences in the context of the implanted lifestyle principles. This enables them to have an assumed full intuitive knowledge about what it is to be in commonality with God. They know they have a relationship with God the Father via Jesus Christ, and they know this relationship is based on having the commonality of having the same lifestyle principles as God because Jesus is implanting those lifestyle principles in them transforming them to actually be like God in their acts in the various circumstances of life. They don't have all the details about how to live, but they know the living is due to Who and What Jesus is to them. And they know in general how they should act in the various circumstances of life. (This Greek word for "know" includes experiences as well as intuitive leaps in knowledge.) Implanted lifestyle principles via the anointing + experiences >> intuitive knowledge about what it is to be in commonality with God.

Another Greek version (possibly more reliable) says: "All of you know". All "little children" have this information. This makes more sense. All of them have the information they need. And they all know about the antichrists, the false teachers.

I have not written unto you because

2:21 **Absolutely not, I wrote, to you, because**

you know not the

absolutely not, you are generally understanding and comprehending (by experience) (how), the truth, but because you know it,

truth; reality, but because you are generally understanding and comprehending (by experience) (how), it,

and that no lie is of the truth.

and because every lie; anything counterfeit is absolutely not from; out of the truth; reality.

2:21 John didn't write to the little children because they did not know the truth, but because they did know it. They weren't ignorant. They didn't need someone who wasn't a real discernible Christian to come along with some "special knowledge" to give them about how they should live. They had experienced God in their lives (see He 6:4-5). They knew God. They knew what it was like to have God involved in their lives, and how it came to be. Most importantly, as we see in 22-25, they knew who Jesus is and what He is doing for us. This is general knowledge all Christians have.

He also wrote to them because no lie comes from the truth. It is the job of every Christian, even little children, to check things out to make sure they are true. It is their job to reject the lies that the antichrists present. They need to compare things that are being taught with things they already know to be true, and reject anything that doesn't match the truth they know.

Verses 20 and 21 have the ideas of 18-19 in view, but they also have 22-25 in mind. People can get quite deceptive as they sneak the teachings of the antichrist in. But there is one area they can't fake it. And that area is- Who is Jesus? Who is He really? And that is how you can tell who can be trusted to teach truth that leads to relationship with God and who can't be trusted.

Note that John still does not deal with the sin question directly here, or how it affects one's relationship with God. Sin is not the main issue that affects your relationship with God. He has dealt with God's commandments- be committed to others, light and dark- whether or not we live in committed relationships, loving the world- the motive to sin- to break commitment to others, and antichrists- those who lead you into sin. John does not deal with the sin question that can break one's relationship with God- the concern of "little children"- until chapter 5, when he deals with sin for all types of Christians.

2:22-25 John deals with identifying these antichrists. John deals with these people who come in and claim they have special knowledge not available from God's Word and God's teachers. Their false knowledge would alter a "little child's" view of Jesus, lead to him abandoning Jesus, end his relationship with God, and make him into an antichrist. (Abandoning Jesus, abandoning commitment to God, is the one type of sin that can break one's relationship with God and break His commitment to you. John deals with it in chapter 5. See chapter 3 to see why only "little children" can do this sin.) If that commitment is not broken, God will never break His commitment to you. Rather than dwell on what not to do, John dwells on what little children need to do- stick with the truth they already know, and the benefits they get- eternal life with all its meanings, in 24-25.

2:22-23 How to tell who the deceivers are.

Who is a liar

2:22 Who is the liar; falsifier; deceptive and untrustworthy one,

but he that denies that Jesus is

if non-absolutely not = except the one rejecting; denying [by saying] that; ; "Jesus is

the Christ? He is antichrist,

absolutely not the Christ; Anointed"; this one is the antichrist; one that is alternately anointed and assumes the appearance and role of the Anointed Christ to displace Him,

that denies the Father and the Son.

the one rejecting; denying the Father; originator (of a group); one worthy of honor; one who cares for others; one with authority and the Son; one with a relationship due to a common situation.

2:22 Who is the liar? The one denying Christ is the Anointed One, God in the Flesh Who receives the lifestyle principles the Father wants us to live by from the Father and passes them on to us. This person, this antichrist, denies this relationship of God the Father and God the Son. In one way or another an antichrist will deny this relationship, and in doing so will try to lead people astray from God.

Whosoever denies the Son,

2:23 Every the one rejecting; denying the Son; one with a relationship due to a common situation

the same has not the Father:

neither *is having the Father; originator (of a group); one worthy of honor; one who cares for others; one with authority.

(but) he that acknowledges the Son

{ The one acknowledging the Son; one with a relationship due to a common situation

has the Father also.

also *is having the Father; originator (of a group); one worthy of honor; one who cares for others; one with authority.}

2:23 Anyone denying Who Jesus really is does not "have" the Father. He doesn't have a relationship with the Father, or information from the Father. He does not have truth to pass on to Christians. He is an antichrist. He is a wolf in sheep's clothing. He is someone to not learn from.

Some Greek versions include: The one confessing the Son also has the Father. In other words, if you teach the truth about Who Jesus is you have a relationship with God the Father. This is the real Christian. This is the person who has information from God. This is the person to learn from.

2:24-25 *How to not be deceived.*

Let that therefore abide in you, which you have heard from the beginning.

2:24 <Accordingly> you what you heard from [the] origination point, *let it stay; remain, in the sphere of influence of, you.

If that which you have heard from the beginning shall remain

If possibly, *what *you heard, *from [the] *origination point, *might stay; remain,

in you, you also shall continue

in the sphere of influence of, you, *you also *are staying; remaining,

in the Son, and in the Father.

in the sphere of influence of, the Son; one with a relationship due to a common situation, and in the sphere of influence of, the Father; originator (of a group); one worthy of honor; one who cares for others; one with authority,.

2:24 So what should a new Christian do when offered new knowledge? Hang on tight to the knowledge that led to becoming a Christian in the first place. Do not let this be displaced or distorted. Hanging on to this knowledge means you will continue to have a relationship with Jesus and with the Father. A "little child"- the people John is addressing in this chapter- can let this knowledge and relationship go, and end up being a teacher of lies, an antichrist. He shouldn't but he can. Hence the need for the warning.

And this is the promise that he has promised us, *even* eternal life.

2:25 **And this is the promise which He promised to His own benefit, to us, *the *eternal life; living by God's eternal lifestyle principles in the various circumstances of life so we have the effects on others God intends for us to have so God is glorified and people end up blessed; the eternal lifestyle principles we should live by; everlasting life with God,.**

2:25 And when you are in relationship with Jesus you will have life eternal. Not life everlasting, though that is included, too, but God's eternal lifestyle principles in you, guiding you and leading to blessings from God including life everlasting.

“He promised to His own benefit”- God gains glory when we live by His lifestyle principles. We demonstrate what God is like to angels, so they glorify God more. And we also glorify God more as we experience the lifestyle principles and their effects in our lives.

2:26-27 *A summary of 15-25*

These *things* have I written to you concerning them that seduce you.

2:26 ***I wrote, these things, to you, encircling the ones, (causing to) roam (from safety, truth, virtue), you.**

2:26 John wrote this section, from verse 15 through 27, about the ones deceiving new believers.

But the anointing which you have received of him

2:27 And you the enabling endowment which you purposely took (along); got hold of; received from Him

abides in you, and you need not

is staying; remaining in the sphere of influence of you, and absolutely not

that any man

*** you are having need in order that; explanation: someone**

teach you:

might teach with an expectation of learning and assimilation by the learner so there is similarity or commonality of teacher and learner you;

but as the same anointing teaches

but comparably as the same enabling; endowment; anointing is teaching with an expectation of learning and assimilation by the learner so there is similarity or commonality of teacher and learner

you of all things, and is truth, and is

you encircling all things, and *is true; actively aligned with underlying reality and *is

no lie, and even as it has taught you,

absolutely not [a] lie; anything counterfeit, and just as He or it taught with an expectation of learning and assimilation by the learner so there is similarity or commonality of teacher and learner you,

you shall abide in him.

stay; remain in the sphere of influence of Him.

2:27 Little children, like any other believer, need to allow God to implant His lifestyle principles in them. This is the anointing they receive. New believers have the choice of allowing this anointing, this implanting of God's lifestyle principles, to go on in their lives, or to deny it. When they continue having this anointing in themselves, they don't need outside teachers. They don't need teachers who do not themselves have this anointing. They don't need the teaching of the antichrists. John isn't saying they don't need any teachers, John himself is a teacher teaching right here. He is saying they don't need unanointed teachers.

The anointing itself is teaching the new Christians. The Holy Spirit gives them insights directly, God uses His Word to give them insights, and God uses fellow believers, especially more mature ones, to teach them. The anointing flows through all of these to teach us.

The anointing will teach them everything they need to know. There is no additional knowledge needed, no hidden knowledge only available from outsiders, no knowledge from experts that comes from different non-Biblical sources, that is needed or even desirable to have. Everything comes through Jesus. And this knowledge is true, always true, and there is no lie or even error in it. And new Christians have already done some learning and are learning more. And in line with this truth from God that they have learned they need to remain in Him. They need to continue in relationship with God based on the commonality of having the same lifestyle principles due to Jesus Christ implanting God's ways in them.

Make sure you stick with what God has taught you. Don't stray from that. Little children doing this are remaining with God and will continue to do so, just like the anointing said will happen and in the way they were taught it would happen.

2:1-27 *How do we know we are Christians? We do this. How do we know who the other Christians are? They do this, too.*

2:28-29 *There are consequences of remaining in Jesus. It's a choice, and little children can decide either way.*

And now, little children, abide

2:28 **And now, dear children or students, you are staying; remaining // stay; remain,**

in him; that, when he shall appear,

***in the sphere of influence of Him, in order that; explanation: when He might be revealed in His true character so He is understandable,**

we may have confidence, and

we might have assurance; free open plain bold authoritative speech or act; confidence, and

not be ashamed before him

non-absolutely not, we might be made to feel shame due to a dishonorable act, from Him

at his coming.

in the sphere of influence of *His ^ being near (again),

2:28 When you remain in relationship with Jesus you can have confidence before Him when you see Him and He judges people. You won't shrink back in shame when He arrives to do judgment. Why? Because you are in a commonality relationship with Him. You are like Him. Not perfectly. Not sinlessly. But you have been to an extent transformed. You have pursued love, unconditional commitment, toward others just like Jesus commanded.

If ye know

2:29 **If possibly, you might generally understand and comprehend (by experience) (how),**

that he is righteous, ye know

that * He is, standard meeting, you are (partly, interactively, appreciatively, applicably) knowing,

that every one that does righteousness

that every the one, doing the standard-meetingness; inherently having quality of meeting standards and thus relationship promoting characteristics,

is born of him.

*** has been begotten; caused to have certain characteristics, from; out of Him.**

2:29 This serves as a transition to John talking to "young men". Young men are big on obedience, on meeting God's standards of how we should live.

Since you little children know that Jesus is standard-meeting, and you know that Jesus taught that He is The Way, The Truth, and The Life, that He is the source of us obeying God, then you know that any one else who meets the standards of God does so because of Jesus being in him transforming him. Jesus is changing him, making him the way he is. The antichrist and the antichrists are not doing this. Jesus is. Jesus is the source, the only source of our obedience. Which brings us to young men.

Jesus Is Faithful 1

Jesus is faithful to God the Father and to God the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is faithful to You.

Before this universe existed God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit had a confab. They had a discussion. They decided to create a universe that would show all the angels more about what God is like.

And God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit took on roles. One of the roles God the Son took on was to show how far God will go to forgive and to bring a sinful being- that would be me- back into a relationship with God that is full of joy and peace and all things wonderful (which we get in the next life).

So They created this universe. And we did sin.

And Jesus is faithful to God the Father and to God the Holy Spirit. Like was planned before the universe even existed, 2000 years ago Jesus went through the incredible pain of the cross to wait for God's mercies for every single sin ever done, and to apply those mercies (forgiveness and transformation) to us. There is not one single sin you will ever do that Jesus has not already dealt with.

Jesus did that so you can be brought back into a wonderful relationship with God. Jesus did that so all those angels can see how incredibly forgiving God is. Jesus did that because He is faithful to God the Father and to God the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is Faithful 2

In [Jesus is Faithful 1](#) we saw that Jesus is faithful to God the Father and to God the Holy Spirit.

But there is more to His faithfulness.

Jesus is faithful to you.

Yes He is.

So incredibly faithful.

Jesus keeps His promises to You.

He removes all your sins. When you go to Heaven there will not be one single wrongdoing attached to you. Not one.

But wait!

He does more.

He also takes away your sinfulness. He takes away your very tendency to sin and your desire to sin. As time goes by, as you go through the 3 stages of the Christian life, He changes you more and more. You won't become perfect- yet. That comes in the next life.

And as He changes you, your relationship with God the Father grows deeper. The Father likes that. He rewards Jesus. And He blesses you more and more.

All because Jesus is faithful.

Keeping God's Commandments as a Sinner

It's a marvelous thing. We can keep God's commandments. Why, we even have more commandments to keep than the Old Testament Jews did! Isn't it marvelous?

Ok. Let's stop and think this through a bit. We don't have the hundreds of OT rituals and all that to keep.

But we do have 2 commandments to keep that they had: love God and love your neighbor.

And we have one new one: love one another. In other words, be so committed to the well-being of fellow Christians you will help them out no matter how much it costs you.

Be committed to God. Totally committed. Be committed to your neighbor. And be committed to fellow Christians. Deeply committed.

Yes, you will sin. Yes, you will violate them. But be committed anyway. Be there for them. Serve them. Care.

You really can keep God's commandments as a sinner.

Be ALL You Can Be

There are 3 parts to being all you can be:

1. You must have a relationship of commonality with God. God WANTS You. He wants a relationship with You. And this relationship will include Him working inside you so you have His lifestyle principles IN you.

In the 1st stage of the Christian life God implants His lifestyle principles IN you- generosity, caring, kindness, honesty, and more. You get the opportunity to Do these things in your life. You get to enjoy God's peace and joy, and you get to endure the world's wrath as you don't do as they do as they chase sex and booze and wealth. You experience God in your life and see His offer of eternity in Heaven.

Somewhere along the line you must make a decision: God's way or Satan's way.

To Be ALL You Can Be, you must decide for God and God's ways. You will give up the freedom to chase women and booze and money and whatnot as your number 1 goal in life. When you do this, you move to step # 2.

2. You absolutely decide to follow God, no matter the cost. You might lose an arm, or your life, or give away a fortune. No cost is too great. And you pursue holiness. You won't fully achieve sinlessness in this life, but you make it a goal. Your soul is in a battle- to chase the women and wine and dollars or to live in caring and generosity and peacefulness with the guy / gal you hate. You strive for purity. You try to live God's ways in all the circumstances of life. Purity is a goal. You don't make it all the way, but you try.

And then, and then, God moves you to the 3rd stage.

3. People are important. People matter. You move from thinking about you and how you want to be pure and get rewards to just plain caring about people. God cared enough to die on the cross so you could be in a relationship with Him and avoid Hell. And you start caring. Lots. All that serving and helping and taking care of people you did grudgingly, now you do it because you want to. You really live by God's lifestyle principle of being committed to people, even when it costs you.

You don't get to this point quickly. It can take decades.

Be ALL You Can Be. And that will vary, depending on what stage of the Christian life you are at. And God will enable you to move on. Start with commitment, then move on to purity, and finally enter caring. It is a rough trip. It's also a worthwhile trip.

And as a bonus: Sin Is NOT a Deal Breaker.

God loves you. Go with that.

3 stages of the Christian life 1

The 3 stages of the Christian life sum up the progression of the Christian life- there are changes in our interaction with God and our lifestyles, and in what God does for us and expects from us: little children respond directly to God's caring for them by witnessing; young men make an unbreakable commitment to God and to obeying God's rules; fathers live out God's caring: unconditional commitment to the well-being of others.

Why the different stages of Christians are committed to God: Infinite God enters into a personal relationship with puny little us (little children). He gives direction in life and meaning to life (young men). He casts out fear, giving boldness (fathers). God is just plain committed to us.

Little children: Sins forgiven, transformation to not sinning begun, trying Christianity out, they experience good things - peace and blessings; and bad- hatred against Christians, giving up the pleasures of sin. They revel in God loving them, setting aside their sins, and having a relationship with God. They can have confidence before God and not be ashamed when Jesus arrives to do judgment. Idolatry is the one sin that is a deal breaker. Choosing to worship an alternate god will end a covenant relationship with God. Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

Young men: Called "children of God", they have a permanent commitment to stick with God, no matter what. They focus on rules, commitment, God's lifestyle principles, knowing Who Jesus is and what He is about, on doctrinal purity and life purity (sinlessness), on meeting God's standards and being committed to others as part of that. They teach the truth about Jesus accurately. They have a relationship based on commonality with God that shows by living in unconditional commitment to people they come into contact with. God makes an unconditional commitment to them to change them so they will actually be like Him. Confident in their relationship with God, they are direct and honest and bold when they communicate requests to Him. And they expect God to pay attention.

The Holy Spirit so thoroughly transforms their knowledge of and relationship with God that they cannot break their relationship and form one with an alternate god. The Holy Spirit won't let them be so tempted that they choose to worship any false god. Young men keep an eye on themselves and make sure they never cross the line (in this way being pure like Jesus). They overcame the evil one.

They do other sins, never this one. Satan cannot change this. No temptation, no persecution, will get them to leave God.

Errors made seeking purity: Making self-righteousness, law-keeping, and knowledge the basis of obedience.

The sins of 1:8-9 and The Sin of 3:9: The sins of 1:9 violate a relationship but don't form an alternate relationship with a false god, which is the sin of 3:9. A person can do the sins of 1:9 all day long and never come close to doing The Sin of 3:9. Anyone can do the sins of 1:9; young men never do the sin of 3:9, little children might do it. If you don't know the difference between little children, young men, and fathers it will look like Christians sin, and don't sin, and you end up wondering, "Which is it?"

Young men and fathers have been "caused to be a certain way" by God: they have been transformed and brought into a relationship of commonality with God.

Young men show unconditional commitment to others largely because it is commanded. Fathers do so because it is more thoroughly implanted in them by God.

Sin is not a deal breaker.

3 stages of the Christian life 2

Fathers: emphasize truly caring for others, being unconditionally sacrificially committed to their well-being no matter what the cost. Fathers see and trust God in helping Christians and working through Christians. It is in their nature to do unconditional commitment- it is implanted in them by God. Context gives them an understanding of God's unconditional commitment and how it shows up in life, they are sure of what they know due to that context, and they have a personal relationship with God that includes this understanding.

Fathers are commanded to show sacrificial commitment to others even though it is implanted in them because it is easy to gravitate to relationships that are easy to handle and ignore the harder ones that require uh, oh! Sacrifice! so they still receive the command to love.

Young men can see fathers as not dedicated enough to doctrinal distinctions. While fathers must beware losing sight of the essentials of the faith while allowing differences in non-essentials, young men fail to see that fathers have moved into another stage of the Christian life, a stage emphasizing caring and putting less emphasis on doctrine.

Fathers are sure they have a relationship with God and please Him because they have the Holy Spirit within them giving them a new spirit, resulting in living by unconditional commitment to others.

Being sinful, Fathers have good reason to fear God, but through it all is their unconditional commitment to the well-being of others. They both sin and care for others. Our forgiving God responds by eliminating the fear they may have since they are living largely like He wants, and they get to live with no fear of the future. **OR** Fathers have occasional unconditional commitment, so they have some fear and lean on God's forgiveness. It is scary to face an infinite God you have wronged but they also live in unconditional commitment, and for that they will be rewarded and can be bold on judgment day. Either way, fathers can have boldness in the day God judges everyone toward God and human accusers and Satan. God gives them the right and privilege to ask for and within the context of God's promises almost demand some things.

Fathers must test the "spirit" of teachers. You don't just deal with the person, you deal with whoever guides and influences and controls that person. Test the person to see which spirit is behind that person's teachings- the Holy Spirit or Satan.

God sees young men and fathers as victors over the world due to God at work in us: Your Trust and Trustworthiness toward God shows in how you treat people. God caused you to be like this. Victory! Before, the world's way made sense and worked out for your goals. Now the world's ways don't fit your goals and don't make sense. Trust and trustworthiness, ethics, obedience and caring, God's ways, are what are natural to you now.

What gives fathers victory: They have God's lifestyle principles in them, affecting their thinking and actions. The fathers have the Truths of God in them keeping them on the right path in spite of the false teachings they encounter.

1 John Outline: Chapter 3, for young men, has a legal context: Lawlessness, righteousness, mankilling, commands, obedience, purity. These go with strength and overcoming and God's Word within- the things the young men have in 2:13, 14. In this context is the requirement to practice unconditional commitment to others. Rules drive young men. Chapter 4, for fathers, has a general context of unconditional commitment to the well-being of others, not rules. Love, caring, commitment to others is the driving force. Fathers know Jesus as the relationship builder, and respond to that. Since fathers still

fail to do unconditional commitment at times, even though God has implanted it into them, they are also commanded to do it.

Extra! Extra! What the Angels Learned

1 John 1-2

'Ow!' He slowly flexes his wing. I can tell it is hurting. 'What was that?'

“That was a person.”

'I thought I came to watch them. How can I watch them if I can't see them?'

“There are 4” oomph “sorry, I got bumped. There are 4 kinds of people. There are people who don't know God at all. We can't see them at all.”

'Well, can we...'

“Then there are the 'little children'. These are people who do know God. They are the ones we are going to watch today.”

'Well, and we...'

“The little children hang out a lot with the people who don't know God.”

'Oh.' ... 'Oh, there are some people I can see. A little, anyway. They look like a bunch of points of light on a black background. Some have lots of points of light, so I can make out their shapes. Others, not so much. At first I thought those were just background lighting.'

“Some know God better than the others, so they have more light.”

We drift over to a corner of the room.

'So, what makes a person into a little child?' He appears glad we moved. His poor wings have been bumped quite often.

“There are 3 stages of the Christian life. A person first becomes a little child. Some of the little children become young men. And some...”

'Because they live long enough.'

“No. A little child might be 5 years old, or 85. Age has nothing to do with it.”

'Oh.'

“Little children are at the first stage of having a relationship with God. The 2nd stage is the young man stage. Last are the fathers.”

'Okay.' He watches little children move about. They wink in and out as people- dark shapes who don't know God- walk between us. 'Why do little children spend so much time with these other people?'

“A little child was one of these other people, sometimes rather recently. Then the little child got to know God a little.”

?

“I see you are puzzled.” I rustle my wings. “When people are born, they don't know God.”

'Okay.'

“Then someone tells him about God.”

'Or her.'

“Or her. And some of them decide they want to know God. That's when they become a little child.”

He leans back against the wall. 'What do they get told about God?'

“First, they need to know that Jesus is God who came to earth in the flesh, living as a real man. He became one of them and understands them. At the same time He has a special relationship with God the Father, both because He is God and because He has a covenant relationship with God, a relationship where He and the Father have agreed to do certain things. Jesus agreed to receive the lifestyle principles people are to live by from the Father, and to pass them on to people and live them IN & THROUGH those people.”

'So they really have an idea of Who Jesus is and what He is doing.'

“That's right. And...” I pause for a moment, getting my next thoughts together. “And also, they learn that God is light. That means God wants a relationship with,.. actually, He actually works to have a relationship with everyone, and He actually establishes a relationship with anyone He can.”

'And God can have a relationship with some people.'

“Yes. People can choose to have a relationship with God, as long as they are willing to have it on God's terms. God is holy. He can't stand sin. And He especially can't stand someone stealing the glory of the Father, Son, and/or Holy Spirit.”

'So, if a person chooses to be sinless...'

I cut him off quick.

“No, they will never be sinless in this life.”

'Oh, but...'

I go on without pausing. “They do have to be willing to confess they are sinners, and to tell God they want to change, because they want a relationship with God.”

'Oh.'

“Then God the Father's Son Jesus Christ steps in. Jesus passes on the Father's mercies. The person gets the Father's forgiveness applied to his sins. So now God the Father is free to have a relationship with him.”

'Well, that's not...'

“There is more. There is also the mercy of transformation. Jesus is the Anointed One. As the Father's Son, Jesus is receiving God's lifestyle principles from the Father.”

He interrupts. 'How a person should live, what he should do and when and why, that is what those lifestyle principles are about.'

“That's right. Jesus receives those from the Father, because He is the Anointed One, the One with an enabling endowment. And then Jesus implants those lifestyle principles into the little children. That make them anointed ones.”

'They become people with the enabling endowment. Jesus gives them the lifestyle principles so they can live by them.'

“That's right. Now the little children will have God's lifestyle principles in them, showing them how they can- and should- live. They still have a choice. They can live by God's lifestyle principles, with the Holy Spirit IN them guiding and enabling and encouraging them to do so.”

'But they still aren't sinless.'

“No, they aren't. They can choose to do things God's way, by God's lifestyle principles, or Satan's way like they were doing before they came to God. The more they choose to do things God's way, the more they become like God. Because Jesus is actually changing them so they sin less. He is transforming them. ”

He looks around. 'Some of these people have more points of light in them than others.'

“God is light. As people obey God more and more they show what God is like to others. God's light, which is God's desire to have a relationship with everyone, shows through them more and more. They show what God is like to others. God's light shows through them more. In fact, little children tell others about God and forgiveness. They want friends to know God like they do. They attract people into a relationship with God.”

'As they are changed more, transformed to be more like God, they attract people more.'

“That's right.”

I feel a great chill come over me. A very dark, light absorbing blob goes by. It isn't just blocking the light from the little children, it is sucking it in from all around. I see he is also feeling it.

“I'll explain that in a minute.”

'I hope so.'

Another one passes by, fortunately not so close.

“When a person enters into relationship with God, he doesn't completely stop sinning right then. Each time he sins he disrupts his relationship with God. He doesn't end the relationship (unless he goes into idolatry, and that is a topic for another day) but all is not well. And this is where Jesus steps in again. The Holy Spirit is inside the person, convicting him of his sinfulness. He knows he has done wrong. Maybe sooner, maybe later, he hopefully will confess his sin. When he does, Jesus applies the Father's mercy of forgiveness to the person and the mercy of transformation, and gets the relationship back on track. And Jesus is always looking to transform the person, to bring him more to the point that he lives by God's lifestyle principles, doing God's will God's way in God's time for God's glory.”

'But not until that sin is confessed.'

“Not till then. The person may just continue to keep on doing the sin. He may ignore the Holy Spirit inside him convicting him. He hasn't destroyed his relationship with God, but he has weakened it. And the result will be loss of eternal rewards.”

'A picture of my favorite chair vanishing flashed through my mind when you said that. What a bummer. So let me ask, If they still sin, how does a person know he really has a relationship with God?'

“He sees he is actually obeying God. He is living by God's lifestyle principles and caring for others and caring relationships with others are forming. It is happening some, and can increase with time. And this can only happen as God lives IN & THROUGH him, which means he is in relationship with God. So he knows he is in a relationship with God. He won't do it perfectly, but he wants to.”

'And they really think they can do what God wants, I mean, live by those lifestyle principles so they can stay close to God? God is perfect, God is holy, God is infinite. What standards can they use to know they are really doing what God wants and not just what they want? I mean, really, can they really live up to God's standards?'

I hold up 3 fingers. “There are only 3 rules: love God, love his neighbor, and love one another.”

'And love means being unconditionally committed to their well-being. Sacrificially, when necessary.'

“Right. He won't do it perfectly, but he can see God enabling him to do it more and more. Jesus implants God's lifestyle principles IN him, the Holy Spirit motivates and guides and enables him to do it, and he does it. God and he work together, in relationship, so the 3 love rules actually happen. He actually lives unconditional commitment toward others. And he can see the result as relationships are established.”

He shifts from foot to foot, while his wings settle in a bit differently, and looks around. 'Okay, he can tell he has a relationship with God. How does he know others have a relationship with God?'

“He watches to see if a person is working to establish and maintain relationships based on living by God's lifestyle principles just like he does.”

'Is the other person totally selfish or does he care about others, especially Christians, so much that it pulls God and people together?'

“Right.”

'You said they can lose eternal rewards. Ouch.' A shiver runs down his spine so hard I see his wings shake. 'Why would anyone keep on sinning?'

“There are 3 types of sin, and they are very attractive. There is the lust of the eyes. This is the allure of beauty, power, ...”

'That's what got Satan, his first sin. The desire to keep his beauty.'

“Yes. But that is a topic for another story. Like I was saying, there is the lust of the eyes, which includes the desire for beauty, power, possessions, and the right to have access to stuff or places. And then there is the lust of the flesh, with the fun of sex and being self-centered in your relationships so you can get what you want no matter what. And lastly there is the pride of life. This is the arrogant self-confidence in what you have or do or can do on your own, like you don't need anything from God. It is easy for people to be filled with pride about what they can do without God's help, and about all the stuff they accumulated on their own.”

We watch 2 totally black forms go by, blocking the points of light from the little children.

'These things certainly don't fit in with God's commands to love God and others.'

“No, they don't. They come from Satan through the world, not from God.”

'And these three things keep attracting little children away from God.'

“Yes. They attract all of God's people, but especially the little children.”

'And when a little child chases after one of them, he is living for himself, his own way, instead of by God's lifestyle principles, disrupting his relationship with God.'

“That's right. So he has to confess his sin, not to get in a relationship with God but to invite Jesus in to restore the relationship.”

'How often can a little child sin?'

“Oh, there is no limit. He might do the same sin many times. And many types of sin.”

'And he never loses his relationship with God?'

“As long as he never enters into idolatry.”

'As long as he never worships another god as God. He can't give Satan the glory God should get, or give it to a demon or an idol, or even to himself.'

“That's right. That is the only sin that will break his relationship with God. And if the little child chooses to do that sin, well, there is no coming back to God. The little child has rejected the reasons God gives for coming to God, and God won't give him different ones. No one can force a little child to leave God, but the little child has that choice.”

'And all the people who don't know God, those 3 types of sin are what they live for, isn't it?'

“That's their goal in life, to get to do those things, and do them as much as possible. That's why they reject God and are into idolatry. God's ways and the world's ways are contradictory. You can only be fully committed to one or the other, and live by one or the other.”

'And that affects their eternity.'

“Certainly. Satan and his system will end. His followers will end up in Hell. God's followers, though, will be in heaven, and they will be rewarded for the times they lived by God's lifestyle principles, doing God's will for God's glory.”

A real chill goes up my spine and spreads through my wings as 2 very dark light absorbing blobs pass by real close. “I better deal with those now.”

'Thank you.'

“Satan is busy. Very busy. Satan wants people worshiping and serving him, not God. So he entices people to follow him, especially using the 3 lusts we just talked about, and using teachers who teach lies to get little children to abandon God and return to Satan.”

'Satan has teachers?'

“That's right. Lots of them. They are called false prophets and anti-christs. They try to get people to not follow God.”

'To follow Satan instead.'

“The false teachers often don't know they are following Satan. Satan has blinded them. They do know they don't want people following God. They have false ideas and alternate lifestyle principles and goals, and want people to join them.”

'Then they can chase after the three types of sin with no resistance.'

“Right.”

He points. 'And those dark blob people, the light absorbers...'

“Are little children who abandoned God, and went to Satan's side, and others who never chose to follow God and are therefore opposed to Him, who actively promote Satan in one way or another, whether it is in direct worship of Satan or an Eastern religion or a fake-Christian cult.

“The anti-Christians can be especially devious. Many, maybe all, were little children. They know Christianity to an extent. And they turn and teach alternate ideas point by point to God's ideas. They especially teach alternate ideas about Jesus. They twist truth and try to make truth look like a lie. They end up leaving solid Christian churches. They are too different to stay.”

'So the little children have to beware these false teachers.'

“Little children absolutely need to avoid these false teachers. False teachers have nothing- absolutely nothing- to teach that will help a person know God better. They can't help someone know God better, since they don't teach the truths about Jesus and the relationship of the Father and Jesus.”

'And you are saying the little children have the ability to tell who the false teachers are and to reject their ideas.'

“Yes. They certainly can do so. They are beginner level Christians, but even so they know what kind of rules God wants them to live by. And they know enough about Jesus- I already talked about Jesus being God in the flesh, the One with a special relationship with the Father who is receiving the Father's lifestyle principles and putting them in God's followers, and that Jesus is living those lifestyle principles IN & THROUGH them- so they can recognize a lie about Jesus.”

'If they want to.'

I send a quick prayer up to God that a lot of people will want to. “If they want to. Sin is quite attractive. They must remember what they learned in the beginning that led them to become Christians, and the transforming God is doing in them, and the insights God is giving them. The deceivers really like to take away from the relationship between the Father and Jesus, trying to pretend they can know the Father without Jesus, which of course is not true. Little children must remember the entire context of beliefs that led them to God and what God is doing in them, so they don't stray from God and even become antichrists.”

'That would be a disaster. They would lose God's lifestyle principles IN them and the blessings that come with that, including living with God forever.'

“Yes, they would.”

I straighten up a bit and smile. “The good news is: Many little children stick with God. And when a little child dies he can be bold before God on the day of judgment because he has a relationship with God. He has forgiveness for his sins and he was transformed so he lived like God at times. He was like God, not perfectly, not sinlessly, but he did pursue unconditional commitment, 'love', caring for others like God expected him to.”

He smiles too. 'And he didn't try to do it on his own.'

“That's right. He knows any rightness he has is because God caused him to have it. God transformed him to that point. God made him like Jesus in the ways he acts.

“And that brings us to young men, which is the topic of the next part of this journey.”

God N Me Questions

We are going to work through the little book of 1 John. I will guide you through some of the ideas John presents. Whether you accept what God says and what God offers is up to you. Right now I can say God WANTS a relationship with you, and He did a lot so you and He can be best friends. In the process you will find out just how important you are. And what God wants to do IN you.

For this section, the questions go with the verses.

2:1 God the Father, the One who punishes people for sin, sent Jesus Christ to deal with your sins so you don't get punished. Does God WANT you?

Does God want a relationship with you? Even though you still sin?

Jesus is your helper?

2:2 What is a propitiation?

Who is our propitiation?

Do you have a relationship with God?

2:2-3 Bridge / comments: What is your focus? Do you dwell on your sin, and how that affects your relationship with God? Or are you wondering if this whole Jesus and God relationship is even worth pursuing? For that matter, is a relationship with God the best way to get meaning for life and security and peace and so much more? Are these your kind of questions? If these are your questions, you are a "little child" in your relationship with God (even if you are 80 years old!).

Are you worried about disrupting- totally breaking- your relationship with God because you sin?

Do you think sinning is proof of no relationship with God?

Do you wonder what is proof of relationship with God?

2:3 Since sinlessness is not the evidence of a relationship with God, what is?

Do you have that?

Can you look back and see that God has changed you in some ways?

Do you see a growing commonality between you and Christians, or is that yet to start?

2:4 Are you committed to God's well-being (making Him happy?). Or just to yours?

How about your commitment to other people, especially Christians? Even when they are irritating?

2:5a Are you committed to relationship with God? Do you follow it perfectly?

Did Jesus apply God's mercies to your shortcomings?

Since you are faulty in your commitment, do you leave room for others to be faulty?

2:5b How much are you committed to the well-being of others?

God died for you. He provides mercies for your murders, sex sins, lies, stealing- all of it. How far will you go for others?

2:6 Commitment. Are you doing it?

2:7-8 Have you ever thought about the people God has had relationships with in the past? The author of half the New Testament was a murderer. So were Moses, and King David, big time figures in the Old Testament. St. Peter was impulsive, 2 of Jesus' disciples were eruptive, to put it nicely. King David was a sex offender to boot. God took lowlifes and got a really decent relationship with them. So, can't He do it with you?

He brought them to the point they were committed to the well-being of others, they lived by God's lifestyle principles, they sought relationships based on commonality. Don't you think He is seeking the same for you? Can't God get you to the point where you care about the well-being of neighbors, fellow Christians, and God Himself, just like He did with them?

Do you want that kind of relationship with God? He cares, and you care?

Do you see it in Christians? Do you want it? Do you have it?

God WANTED them. Sin Was Not a Deal Breaker!
God WANTS You. Sin Will Not Be a Deal Breaker. Okay?

Jesus Christ died for the sins of the whole world. For you. That's a fact. Do you see that you are special to God?

2:9 Have you seen the fakers? The hypocrites? What were they lacking? What were they seeking? What were they not seeking?

2:10 Have you seen people helping people with nothing to gain from it? Why do they do that? Could it be God is enabling them to do it, even the ones who aren't Christians?

Are they perfect in every way?

What are the Christians seeking when they know they are giving stuff up? Why would they do that?

What about the sin problem?

2:11 Don't say anything. Just think this through and DO IT.
Separation- good or bad?
What are you going to do about a bad relationship?
What will it cost you?
Will it embarrass you to try?

When you mingle with Christians whose well-being do you have in mind? Has God given you a caring heart? Are you a Christian?

2:12-14 Some of 1 John is for you. Some is for other Christians. As you go through these 3 verses you can decide which level of Christian you are and which chapters are for you. The other chapters can be interesting, but they are mainly for others.
This is important when you are dealing with the questions of significance and meaning for life and security. Your group gains significance differently than the other groups do. You get meaning for life differently. And your sense of security has a different basis.
So, figure out which group you are in. And especially dwell on the info for that group.
There is no 1-size-fits-all.
Through the rest of the book the differences between these 3 types of Christians becomes more apparent.
For now:
Is the main thing to you the fact that God set aside your sins? That you have a relationship with God? Then you are a "little child".
Is the main thing that you have made a permanent commitment to God, and emphasize following His rules? Is doctrinal purity a main emphasis with you? If so, you are a "young man".
Is your main emphasis unconditionally sacrificially caring about people? Then you have progressed to the "father" stage of the Christian life.
Which type of Christian are you?

God WANTS You. So much that He even will take you through a process that makes you better and better. Do you want that?

If God is working to improve you- and He is- does that mean you are important?

2:15-16 When others look at your life, where do your priorities lie? Do you choose to be committed to yourself first? Or to God and others?

Are you chasing after pleasure? Or giving up pleasure so you can make others happy? Are you chasing after things you want? Or is your priority helping others get what they want or need?

Or maybe your goal is to Be somebody on your own and even leave a legacy. Is that it?

2:17 Where does God fit into all this?

What does God want for you?

You can leave a legacy behind.

Did God leave a legacy behind? Or something more than a legacy?

If He is living IN you, hasn't He got more than a legacy on Earth? Hasn't He got Himself still on Earth?

And if living IN you is His way of still being on Earth, does that mean you matter?

And if God plans to live IN you forever- what do you want to do? Make God the priority in your life, and You are here forever? Or chase all those things, and you just leave a legacy behind?

Do you want to keep mattering, or to not matter any more?

Do you want to think only of getting ahead now? Or really long term?

Are you willing to give up 40 years of gain now on Earth to have a forever gain in Heaven?

2:18 What do you do when a "Christian" tries to get you involved in unholy activity?

2:19 Are you trying Christianity on? Is there a chance you will decide it is not worth it?

God WANTS You. Do you WANT Him?

2:20 Where do you draw the line between what is right and wrong?

How do you know what is right and wrong?

2:21 Do you check the Bible to make sure the things you are taught are true? Do you check your intuition and conscience? Which of the 3 gets higher priority, and why?

2:22 Where do you draw the line between a good and bad teacher?

Who IS Jesus? What does Jesus do?

2:23 How should you react to someone who does not teach the Truth about Who Jesus Is?

You might want to read up on cults, to learn what false teachers are like. And remember, Satan puts false teachers in churches.

Do your church leaders do a good job of keeping false teachers out?

Do they emphasize Who Jesus Is?

2:24 Write down the info that brought you to Jesus. Compare this to the Bible. Write down how it affected you. This is your beginning theology. Compare all new info with the Bible and this initial info.

2:25 What is eternal life?

Do you really want this promise?

Bad enough to give up the glitz and glitter and baubles the world offers? (See 2:16)

2:27 Are you letting God change your conscience?

Are you letting God change your reasoning on what is right and wrong?

When God formed a relationship with you through Jesus, did some of your ideas on right and wrong change? (Don't write these down. This is private, between you and God.)

Did you suddenly stop desiring to do some wrong things? (This happens to some people.)

Did you get new desires?

God anointed you. He gave you new abilities and desires and morals. He gave you anointed teachers, and the ability to detect fakes. Did He waste His effort, or are You Someone Special to God?

Are you going to stick with God?

What will you look for when you are looking for real Christians?

Now let me ask you a question. If God has done all this for you, and He has, and He did it all for you before you did anything for Him, are you important to God? Are You important? Not just what you will do for Him later, but YOU. Are you important to God?

2:28 Do you have a forever view of life? Do you keep eternity in view when you do your daily activities?

Will you be confident before Jesus when He comes to judge everyone?

You won't be sinless. But- are you actively seeking to improve your relationship with God?

2:29 Are you ready to get deeper with God? It truly is your choice.

Did I Really Learn It?

Chapter 2

2:2 What is a propitiation? Who is our propitiation?

2:3 Since sinlessness is not the evidence of a relationship with God, what is?

2:5 [Same question continued.]

2:9-11 [Same question continued.]

2:10 What does stumbling or scandal refer to?

2:12-14 Define the "little child", "young man", and "father". **Fair warning: most of the answers come from the book introduction.**

2:16 What are the 3 sins John says to avoid? Define them a little.

2:18 What do antichrists promote?

2:20 What is an anointing?

What gives a person an intuitive knowledge about what it is to be in commonality with God?

2:21 Who does a Christian not need as a teacher?

2:22 What do false teachers deny that makes them spotable?

2:24 What should a new Christian do when offered new knowledge?

2:25 What is the "eternal life" that God promises Christians?

2:28 Time for God's eternal judgment. How can a little child act? Why?

2:29 How does a person live up to God's standards?

Did I Really Learn It? Answers

Chapter 2

2:2 What is a propitiation? Who is our propitiation?

A "propitiation" is someone or something that comes between 2 people, one of whom is offended, and provides something so the offended one is no longer offended but is instead desiring to be in relationship with the one who offended him again. The propitiation brings the 2 people back together into relationship. A propitiation doesn't just deal with the offending problem, it restores the relationship. Jesus is our propitiation.

2:3 Since sinlessness is not the evidence of a relationship with God, what is?

When you "know" Jesus you experience Him introducing God's lifestyle principles into your life so you live by light (seeking relationships) and not by darkness, being unconditionally committed to the well-being of others, enjoying the relationship of commonality of similarity with God and fellow Christians, resulting in you living by unconditional commitment toward God, neighbors, and fellow Christians. When you "know" Jesus you have a relationship with God.

2:5

Whoever is living by- he is genuinely holding to- the logical presentation of Jesus, the teaching that God is light- He wants relationship with people, and God is love- that God is the unconditional commitment to the well-being of those He is in relationship with or wants to be in relationship with, and the teaching that he is to be living by the commandments of Jesus which have him showing the same unconditional commitment to people, whoever is holding to this teaching, no matter how faulty his attempts may be to live by God's love- God's unconditional commitment to the well-being of those He is in relationship with or wants to be in relationship with, whoever this person is has entered into relationship with God. God's goal of showing unconditional commitment to this person has been perfected, starting with having relationship with this person and moving forward- it will happen- into transformation and eventual perfection for the person. Sinlessness has not yet been perfected, seeking the relationship in a perfect way has not been perfected, but the relationship is there, and that is what counts to begin with. The rest will follow. The relationship has been accomplished.

2:9-11

How do you know who is a Christian? You know by his commitment to the well-being of other Christians based on being in a relationship with them based on the commonality of having God's lifestyle principles within us. To put it simply, you know by whose best interests he has in heart, his own or that of other Christians. You can't tell by sin or lack of sin- we all sin. You know by who he makes number one in his life.

2:10 What does stumbling or scandal refer to?

A direct attempt to lessen another Christian's stature or to cause division (scandal, "stumbling").

2:12-14 Define the "little child", "young man", and "father". **Fair warning: most of the answers come from the book introduction.**

MIDTERM QUESTION

"Little children". Their sins have been forgiven and the transformation to not sinning has begun. They are trying Christianity out. They enjoy a real relationship with God.

They experience the good things about knowing God- His peace and blessings. They also begin to experience the problems- the opposition, the hatred and prejudice against Christians and the expectation that they give up the pleasures of sin. The main thing to them is the fact that God set aside their sins, and that they have a relationship with God.

"Young men" are people who have made an unconditional commitment to stick with God, no matter the consequences. These people are focused on obeying God. Rules are extremely important. Satan lost the battle for their souls, and for their minds. Young men are strong and God's Word remains in them. They are strong, meaning they are dedicated to following God's lifestyle principles. The Word of God, the logical presentation of God, remains in them, meaning they are quite familiar with the teachings of God so they know the ways of God, and they know Who Jesus is and what He is all about- they know their doctrine. And they have overcome the evil, or the evil one. This means they will not ever at any time allow God to be displaced in their lives. They will sin, but they will never ever worship Satan or any false god Satan may place before them. The main thing to them is to have made a permanent commitment to God, and be following His rules. Doctrinal purity is a main emphasis with them.

"Fathers" have moved from an emphasis on obedience to one of truly caring for others, being unconditionally sacrificially committed to their well-being no matter what the cost. Satan has lost the battle for their attitudes.

- 2:16 What are the 3 sins John says to avoid? Define them a little.
A strong longing of the flesh (think self-centered relationship, sex) and a strong longing of the eyes (think beauty, power, possessions or the right to access) and an arrogant self-confidence in what you are and have and can do (including seeking meaning for life separate from God and wanting to leave behind a legacy based on how wonderful you were on your own).
- 2:18 What do antichrists promote?
Antichrists live by alternate lifestyle principles that are opposed to God's and encourage others to do the same. They would lead new Christians astray from God. They try to lead Christians to love the world, to love sex and beauty and self-confidence and all the rest that comes attached.
- 2:20 What is an anointing?
an implanting of God's lifestyle principles within
 What gives a person an intuitive knowledge about what it is to be in commonality with God?
Implanted lifestyle principles via the anointing + experiences
- 2:21 Who does a Christian not need as a teacher?
Someone who isn't a real discernible Christian with some "special knowledge" about how to live.
- 2:22 What do false teachers deny that makes them spotable?
Who is Jesus? Who is He really? The one denying Christ is the Anointed One, God in the Flesh Who receives the lifestyle principles the Father wants us to live by from the Father and passes them on to us. This person, this antichrist, denies this relationship of God the Father and God the Son.
- 2:24 What should a new Christian do when offered new knowledge?

Write down the info that brought you to Jesus. Compare this to the Bible. Write down how it affected you. This is your beginning theology. Compare all new info with the Bible and this initial info.

2:25 What is the "eternal life" that God promises Christians?

God's eternal lifestyle principles in you, guiding you and leading to blessings from God including life everlasting.

2:28 Time for God's eternal judgment. How can a little child act? Why?

With confidence before Him when you see Him and He judges people. You won't shrink back in shame when He arrives to do judgment. Why? Because you are in a commonality relationship with Him. You are like Him. Not perfectly. Not sinlessly. But you have been to an extent transformed. You have pursued love, unconditional commitment, toward others just like Jesus commanded.

2:29 How does a person live up to God's standards?

Since you little children know that Jesus is standard-meeting, and you know that Jesus taught that He is The Way, The Truth, and The Life, that He is the source of us obeying God, then you know that any one else who meets the standards of God does so because of Jesus being in him transforming him. Jesus is changing him, making him the way he is.

The Gift



Jesus in my heart makes me valuable

You can be a:

**ValuableMe- I am a bonafide headed-to-Heaven purpose-loaded person
God is delighted to see.**

I help you be one.

**I help you see you the way God sees you and see how to improve
so He sees you with delight**

About the author

I write for people who want to feel significant. I help you discover why you exist, why you suffer, just how much God WANTS You in a relationship with Him, what Jesus did and is doing so you get God's mercies (this is personally important to Jesus). Jesus N Me, Jesus N Mercies, Mercies N Me- this is all planned by God so you can be truly significant.

I'm a writer. I write. I've been mad at God when He gave me info belatedly, forcing me to rewrite. I've delayed on some projects and God has had to nudge me along. Mostly I just DO IT! I write. Theology, commentaries, Bible-teaching novels- I write. Writing is hard. It is frustrating. It is fun. It is my hobby. I write. I did finally have to tell God there is no sense writing if there are no readers. So now I have a little time for promoting, too.

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May God bless you as you explore Who You Are IN Him.