

1 John 2:1-11

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God`s love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him.. Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

My dear children,

A fatherly greeting



I write this to you

John refers to his writing quite often in this letter.

The gift and blessing of reading and writing!

It's a personal address



so that you will not sin.

This is the reason for John's writing. There was an increasingly popular false teaching that said that as a believer it didn't matter how you lived. John is writing to refute this.

A "parent's" role:-
Protection from harm = sin



But if anybody does sin,

(if)

?

It may be theoretically possible not
to sin But I'm afraid it happens
– to us all



we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence-

A legal advocate before the Father!

What defence?

We have no excuses.

But our guilt is covered



-Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

He is a good lawyer!
And his righteousness is our plea.



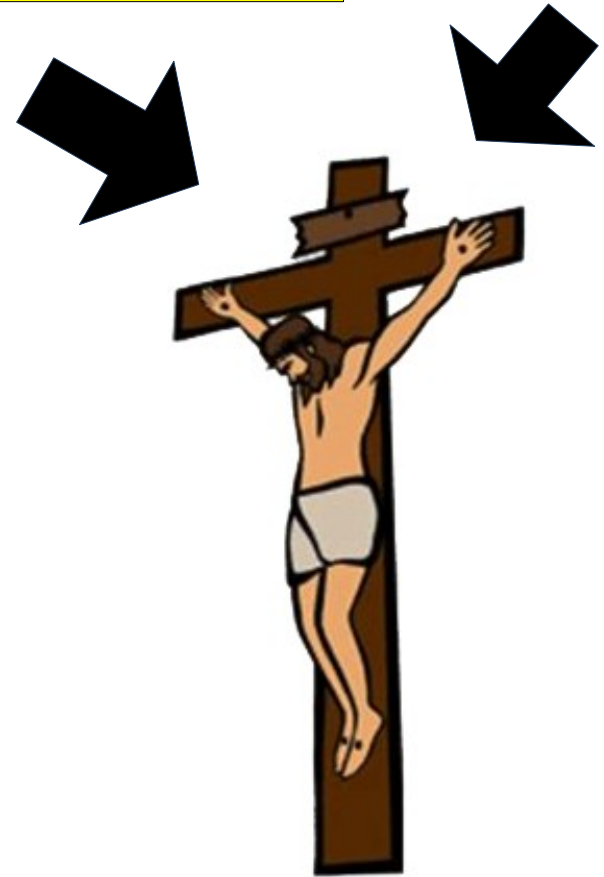
He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins,

He IS the sacrifice.

The kind of sacrifice he made was
an atoning one – propitiation

His offering puts aside the righteous
wrath of God against sin so that God
can be gracious towards us.

It is a personal offering
– he died for you and me.



and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

This is the foundation of the gospel for all people.
His sacrifice covers the sin of the whole world
– think of the weight he bore on the cross!

It is available for all, but can only be effective for those who believe and receive it. We are not lifeless objects, but humans with the ability to make choices.



We know that we have come to know him

A truth for us all – John says “We”!
You can be sure – assurance is possible and important for each believer to have.

We know – assurance in us

We Know him is a personal living relationship.



Or is it a blur?

We know that we have come to know him
if we obey his commands.

The proof of the reality of our Christian experience is obedience.



What are his commands?

It is not simply a repeat of the OT commands.

The moral requirements still stand cf. Acts 15.

The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

There can be a wide gap between the claim to be a follower of Jesus and the reality of how a person lives.

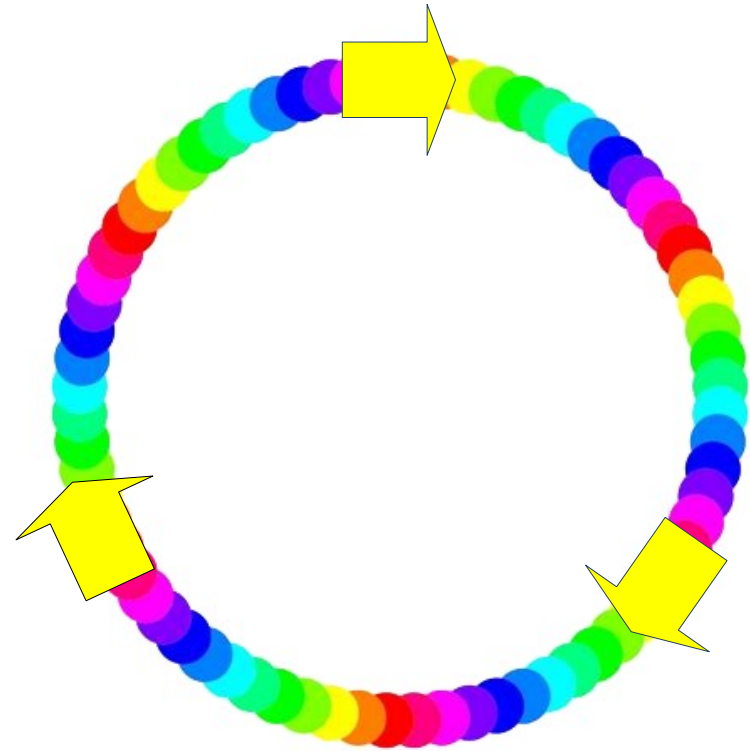
No fruit = no life



But if anyone obeys his word,
God's love is truly made complete in him.

Do what he says and God's love
flows into us and changes us and
then it flows through us to others.

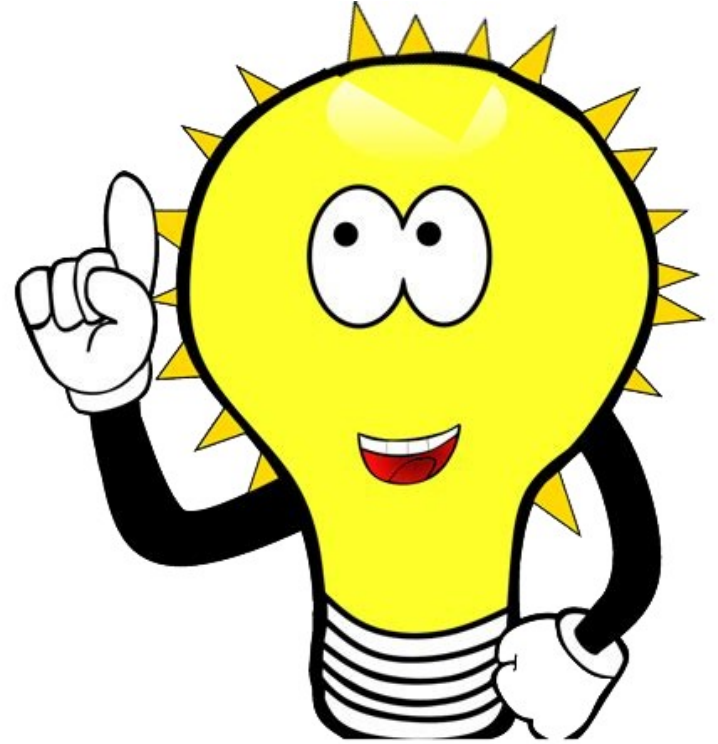
God's love 'flow' is completed.



This is how we know we are in him..

A practical test – you can see the result and draw some assurance from it.

(but note our faith is not in our works but in what Christ has done and will do through us)



Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

A follower has to follow!

What a high calling this is!

Read the gospels and watch the master!

Then by the power of faith and the holy Spirit's working we follow.



Dear friends,

“Beloved” - a fatherly greeting.
This is like an affectionate arm on
our shoulder.
He wants to encourage us to keep
going.



I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning.

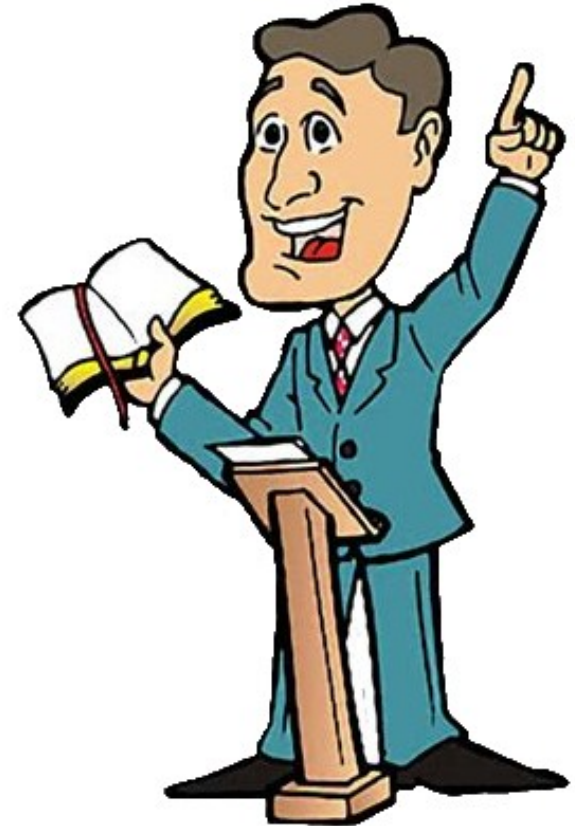
This is the way it has been since the time you began to love and serve him, just as when Jesus began his earthly ministry. Notice that John isn't giving the command – he is simply passing it on. It's the Lord who commands.

Walk as Jesus walked!



This old command is the message you have heard.

No change needed or necessary.
It was a clear message that we
have received – don't mess with it



Yet I am writing you a new command;
its truth is seen in him and you,

It may be the same 'old' message
but it is still powerfully active in the
present and you can see it NOW as
you get to know him and see his
working in you.
This is real – true.



because the darkness is passing
and the true light is already shining.

The world isn't improving, but
more and more are turning from
the darkness of a sinful life. The
reality of the world to come can be
seen shining in the changed lives of
his people.



Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness.



A very practical test...
How do you get on with your
brothers and sisters in Christ?

Light and hate don't work together.
If hatred is there then that shows
that things need to change.

Whoever loves his brother lives in the light,
and there is nothing in him to make him stumble.

The love of others is living according to God's law and when followed gives light of peace and joy, a clear sense of purpose and direction and gives no entry point for Satan to trip us up.

Remember that the Bible teaches us that love is a choice rather than just a feeling.



But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness;

John is repeating the point and adding the warning of the dangerous consequences of hatred.

Such a person is in the dark and is heading for trouble.



he does not know where he is going,
because the darkness has blinded him.

He thinks he knows but where he is really heading - he either doesn't see or ignores it.

The darkness is shown to be not just the absence of knowing the truth but it is the destructive power of sin to blot out all sense and wisdom.



Dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin.

This is one of the reasons for John's writing. He knows that if we are secure in our relationship with the Lord and living according to his will, then we will be kept safe from harm.

