

YOU KNOW THE TRUTH

1 John 2:18-27

In our day, it's popular to say that everyone makes their own truth. People tell us: if it's true for you—if it works for you—that's fine. Just don't mess with anyone else's truth.

Everyone makes their own truth!

While we DO accept everyone's right to *believe* what they want, this view of TRUTH is troubling

Our culture holds that **there is no absolute truth**—everyone comes up with their own “truth.”

This view of truth provides no foundation!

John builds on the understanding that **God has spoken.**

To enjoy fellowship with Him, we must know what HE says, & build on HIS revealed truth.

GOD is the source of ALL truth!

That leads to 4th evidence that we're in fellowship with God.

JOHN'S PURPOSE:

That we might ENJOY fellowship 1:3

—with God's people —with God Himself

That we might have real **JOY** 1:4

JOHN'S MESSAGE:

To enjoy fellowship with God, we must be like Him.

GOD'S HOLINESS 1:5-3:10

Description of God 1:5

“God is Light” => God is HOLY

Implications for God's children 1:6-3:10

2:3-27 4 EVIDENCES WE'RE IN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD:

1. OBEYING HIS COMMANDS 2:3-6

2. LOVING ONE ANOTHER 2:7-14

If you're part of the family, you'll love your brothers & sisters!

3. NOT LOVING THE WORLD 2:15-17

If anyone loves the world, the Father's love isn't in him.

Love for the world & love for God are mutually exclusive!

3 things in the world: 16

Desire of the flesh

Desire of the eyes

Pride of life

None of these come from God; they all come from the world.

They lead to different ends: 17

The world & things it desires are temporary!

People characterized by doing God's will abide forever!

You can't love the world & God at the same time.

Therefore, *not* loving the world is evidence we're in fellowship with Him

4th way that we can know we're in fellowship with Him:

4. REJECTING FALSE TEACHERS 2:18-27

Those who are in fellowship with God recognize false teachers & reject their message.

Assumption: We're living in the last times. 2:18

"Children, it is the last hour, & as you've heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour."

How do we know that we're living in "the last times?" 2:18

Many antichrists have arisen

These are people who stand in opposition to Christ.

Everyone's heard about *the one* coming in opposition to Christ—*THE* AntiChrist.

But, in fact, ***MANY* have come to oppose Christ.**

Their presence affirms that we're living in the end times

Opposition to Christ is consistent with that of THE antichrist.

They're committed to "last times" activity—just as HE is!

Paul affirms that in last times some will abandon the faith & follow deceiving spirits (1 Tim. 4:1-2)

Deceiving voices will abound as end of the age approaches.

John's testimony affirms that these voices have been present in the church from the beginning, but they show that, relative to God's whole plan, we're living in the end times.

We can expect them to increase as we near end of this age

3 things mark these antichrists—who oppose Christ:

#1 Those Who Oppose Christ Leave the Brethren

They turn their back on God's people & leave.

Who has left us? Why did they leave? **2:19** "*They went out from us, but they weren't of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.*"

These antichrists—people who oppose Christ—started out among us but then left us.

The fact that they left us shows they were never part of us.

He is convinced that his readers are different—"**BUT YOU, . . .**"—they won't leave!"

His readers demonstrate that they're in fellowship with God because they're staying with the family.

John is confident his readers will continue to abide in the truth & thus show that they're in fellowship with God.

We receive encouragement in our walk with God by remaining with the family.

People who are really part of us don't leave!

These antichrists may *act* like they belong to us.

But their departure shows that they're fakes.

Genuine members of the family don't abandon the family!

Their departure reminds us that not everyone who puts on a good show—who claims to be one of us—really belongs to the family!

2nd characteristic of these antichrists, who oppose Christ:

#2 Those who oppose Christ deny the faith 20-25

"But you have been anointed by the Holy One, & you all have knowledge. ²¹I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, & because no lie is of the truth. ²²Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father & the Son. ²³No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. ²⁴Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son & in the Father. ²⁵& this is the promise that he made to us— eternal life.

What does John know about the people to whom he is writing?

2:20-21

His readers demonstrate that they're in fellowship with God because the truth abides in them.

He's writing to them because he's convinced they've been anointed by the Holy One.

He's convinced they know the truth.

Lies & the truth can't coexist.

You must choose between the truth and the lie.

What's the lie that's being circulated? Who believes the lie?

2:22-23 *"Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father & the Son.*

²³*No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also."*

The specific teaching that will guide in the detection of such false teachers is **denial that Jesus is the Anointed One of God.**

The liar is characterized by a denial of Christ.

Specific content of his denial: "Jesus is not the Christ."

Anyone who spreads that message is an anti-christ—an opposer of Christ.

Anyone who denies the Son, denies the Father also

You can't be committed to the Father and deny His Son!

Anyone who acknowledges the Son has the Father

The two go together.

Those who want to walk with the Father will agree with Him about His Son.

This is consistent with Jesus' words in John's gospel:

6:45 *“Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from Him comes to me.”*

7:17 *“If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.”*

What will be true of those who are in fellowship with God? **2:24-25**

²⁴*Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son & in the Father.* ²⁵*& this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.*

They receive encourage-ment in their walk with God by meditating on His Word

Exhortation: *“Let that which you heard from the beginning abide in you.”*

Let it soak in & control your life.

Importance of the exhortation:

When what you heard from the beginning abides in you, that’s an affirmation that you’re abiding in the Son & in the Father.

When the Word abides in us, it shows that we’re in fellowship with Him & that we’re recipients of the promise of eternal life.

3rd characteristic of these anti-christs, who oppose Christ:

#3 Those who oppose Christ seek to lead the faithful astray

26-27 *I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you.* ²⁷*But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, & you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, & is true, & is no lie – just as it has taught you, abide in him”*

What has John observed about his readers?

His readers demonstrate that they're in fellow-ship with God because they're taught by God.

He's writing to them about those who are trying to lead them astray

However, he's convinced that the anointing God has given them abides in them.

It's still producing it's effect in them

Therefore they don't need anyone else to teach them.

His anointing will teach them.

They receive encouragement in their walk with God by God's teaching them the truth.

Even so he issues an exhortation to them

Why? What's he afraid of?

He urges them to abide in that truth.

He's concerned lest they turn away from the truth He has taught them and be led astray by the persuasive teaching of false teachers.

It isn't that he expects it to happen, but he wants to assure that they continue to draw upon that Word & let it control their thinking.

What does that exhortation to them teach US?

Enjoyment of fellowship with the Father isn't based on how we *feel*, or on *convincing, logical arguments* from human teachers.

Enjoyment of fellowship is based on *abiding in the truth* of His Word, & allowing His Spirit to teach us.

SO WHAT? How should this study affect the way we live?

We should receive encouragement in *OUR* walk with God in the same three ways John's readers did:

We should be encouraged by:

Sticking together with God's family.

As we gather together, we encourage one another to love and good works.

When we avoid getting together, Satan easily picks us off one by one, & leads us astray. WE NEED EACH OTHER!

Meditating on God's Word

God's Word is the foundation on which we build our faith.

God's Spirit teaching us the truth.

The Spirit of God is the Source of truth, He guides us in understanding it.

"You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free."

Genuine freedom & enjoyment of fellowship with God is the result of H.S. revealing the truth.