

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 2:7-11

Lesson 9

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Share a specific way I John 2:6 has become a guideline for your life.
 - a. How does I John 2:3-6 contribute to your assurance that you are in Him?

2. *Obedience* to His commands is one test given by John to shore up our assurance we are in fellowship with Him. Another test given to confirm our assurance is given in I John 2:7-11. Note and mark this paragraph division. Summarize this passage with a short title.

3. We know from Ephesians 2:8, 9 that our salvation is not obtained by our works, but we also know, that our being born again should result in good works. (Ephesians 2:10) I John 2:7-11 compels us to face the truth about our condition before God. If we are truly born again there will be discernible evidence that backs up our profession and strengthens our assurance that we are born again. Underline or highlight from the foregoing sentence what the discernible evidence should accomplish in a believer's life.
 - a. What is your deepest desire or concern as you study this week's lesson? Write it here as a prayer. Trust the Lord to work in your life in answer to your prayer. Thank Him for His Word and the assurance these scriptures supply.

*Love, love, love, love,
Christians this is your call,
love your neighbor as yourself
For God loves all.*

SECOND DAY:

Read I John 2:7

1. Observe and underline the word *commandment* in I John 2:7
 - a. List what you learn about the commandment from verse 7.

1) What does I John 2:5 reveal about this *commandment*?

2. This was not a *new* commandment. John himself heard Jesus proclaim it many years before he wrote this letter we are studying now. Many centuries before Christ's birth, God gave a similar commandment. Write this commandment next to the following references:
 - a. Leviticus 19:18b
 - b. Matthew 22:(37, 38) 39
 - c. John 13:34

Challenge: In what sense do these references define the phrase *from the beginning*?

3. This commandment *was old* also to those to whom John was writing because from the very first day they became believers they were taught that this *Law of love* must be the law of their lives. Verify this statement by writing I John 2:7b.
 - a. Observe and print what James 2:8 calls this *command* of love.

*Loving others is called "royal"
because it is the supreme law
governing all other
relationships.*

Selah

THIRD DAY:

Read I John 2:8

1. The word *new* in I John 2:8 does not mean *new* in the sense of time but *new* in freshness. Was His commandment alive and at work in the attitudes and actions of these believers? Was it presently the governing principle of their Christian walk? What did Jesus say about this commandment in John 13:34,35?

2. We know this *thing (loving others)* was true in Him, our Lord Jesus Christ. It is true in us also. How have we been enabled to have *this thing* true in our life? Answer by completing the following phrase from I John 2:8b:

I can love others because _____, _____
_____.

3. Think of some of your reactions to others before you met Christ. What does it mean to you today that *the darkness is past*, and *the true light now shineth* in your heart?

*Come to the Light, 'tis shining for thee!
Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me:
Once I was blind, but now I can see –
The Light of the world is Jesus.
Philip P. Bliss*

FOURTH DAY:

Read I John 2:9-11

1. Again, for the fifth time in this letter John challenges what people *claim* by what they *say* and *reveal* by what they do. Why is the claim of the man of I John 2:9 false?
 - a. Brother in these verses (I John 2:9-11) refers to fellow Christians. John's very black and white in these verses - there is no gray area. He uses strong contrasts to emphasize the truth. Define the word *hateth* (hate). Use synonyms if you desire.

 - b. What does the phrase *even until now* indicate? I John 2:9b.

2. Describe the condition of the one who claims to be *in the light but hateth His brother* from I John 2:9,11.
 - a. What is the effect of walking in the darkness of hatred? I John 2:11c
 - 1) Explain in a practical way how hatred blinds a person.
 - 2) Who blinds those who walk in hatred? II Corinthians 4:4
 - 3) How does the blindness of hatred distort a person's perception of the one he/she hates?
 - b. What do these verses add to this?
 - 1) I John 3:14,15
 - 2) I John 4:20
3. Notice the companions of hatred in Galatians 5:20,21. List them. Use other versions if you like.
 - a. What does the Bible teach about the future of those who do such things?
 - b. Contrast this with the fruit of the Spirit which is produced through the lives of those who are truly *walking in the light*. Galatians 5:22,23
 - 1) How does Galatians 5:24 define those who are Christ's?
4. If through these verses you recognize your lack of love for fellow believers, what will you do?
5. How would harboring hatred in our heart affect our confidence in our salvation?

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 2:10

1. Print the glorious truth of I John 2:10 phrase by phrase.
2. How does loving your brothers and sisters in Christ fortify your assurance that you are born again? Answer from I John 2:10.
3. The word *stumbling* in I John 2:10 refers to a *trap* or *snare* that causes one to fall into sin or error. *There is nothing in him to make him stumble* is one translation of 1John 2:10b. Connect the links of *love* and *light* to not stumbling.
Explain the way this operates according to I John 2:10.
4. All families have conflict and tensions, selfishness, and willfulness to contend with. This is also true of the family of God on earth. In what way does I John 2:10 encourage you to resolve these conflicts?
 - a. Share practical ways of doing this.

*Trust whoever loves his fellow man is "walking in the light"
And can see his way without stumbling around in darkness and sin.*

I John 2:10 TLB

SIXTH DAY: Review I John 2:7-11

1. According to I John 2:7-11 how important is it for Christians to *love one another*?
2. Jesus expanded the meaning of love for others in the following scriptures. Who do they include and why?
 - a. Matthew 5:(43) 44,45
 - b. Luke 6:27,28,32,35
 - c. What is your response to this?

3. How does *walking* in the light keep you from *stumbling* in the darkness of hatred?

4. Review the awful consequences of hating others from I John 2:11. How does this challenge you to walk ever more consistently *in the light*?

5. If you were sitting in the congregation of the First Century Church when this letter was read and you hated one of your fellow believers, what would you want your response to this portion of the letter to be?
 - a. What would you hope you would recognize?

6. How is your claim of walking in the light substantiated according to I John 2:(9) 10?

7. Our personal assurance of salvation is strengthened by the reality of our love for other Christians. Share how this inspires you with a greater desire to love others more and more and more.

8. In what way have you been most edified by these verses?
 - a. How will you apply these to your life?

*The genuineness of our faith is revealed
in our right relationship to God and to others*
-selected