

(1 John 2:12-17)  
“*Family Matters*”

## ~LET'S PRAY~

### NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled todays message: **“Family Matters.”**  
➤ (1 John 2:12-17) NKJV.

## ~INTRO~

### WELL... SO FAR... WE'VE LEARNED.

- That the Christian life is NOT to be lived in isolation...  
➤ But in FELLOWSHIP with God & other believers.

### WE'VE LEARNED...

- That *abiding* in Christ means...  
➤ We believe God's truth & we obey God's truth...
  - And it's demonstrated as we love others.

### WE'VE LEARNED...

- That if we break fellowship...  
➤ It's because we're respond to lies...
  - Which is a departure from faith...
    - OR revealing the individual doesn't have faith.

### TRACK WITH ME CHURCH...

- John taught the believers... the way back into fellowship...  
➤ Is always thru Jesus.
- He explained that fellowship is maintained:
  - 1) Thru the “*advocacy*” of Christ... (intercession).
  - 2) Thru the “*propitiation*” of Christ... (His death on the cross).
  - 3) Thru the “*confession*” of sin to Christ who forgives & cleanses.

### AND... WHILE ALL OF THIS WAS WRITTEN...

- To deepen the spiritual life of the church.
- (1<sup>st</sup> John) is a book of practical proofs to see if we're in the faith.

### IN OTHER WORDS...

- It's NOT what a person says that counts...  
➤ But what a person does that demonstrates... they belong to Jesus.

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## LET'S MAKE SURE...

- We have the right tone... before we go on.

## LISTEN...

- Jesus is coming back for the church at any time now.
  - But YOUR life might be over sooner.

## SO... THE URGENCY...

- For straight forward truths... help us evaluate where we're at.

## (2 Cor. 13:5) NLT

*“Examine yourself to see if your faith is genuine...”*

## WE LIVE IN AN AGE...

- Where many people know about Christ & claim to be saved...
  - But their lives don't reflect faith.
- AND John has been teaching the church...
  - That profession ... without proof... **IS A LIE!**

## NOW... TODAY...

- We see the family make up & get a strong warning.

## ~STUDY~

## HERE'S A FEW THINGS WE CAN LEARN:

### IDEA #1 – FAMILY MAKE UP: (vv.12-14)

#### (v.12)...

- *“Little children”* this speaks to the whole family of faith (Grk. *teknia*).
  - The ideas is born ones AND... it's NOT age specific.
    - (The whole church is safe in Jesus)

#### (vv.13-14) MOVES INTO THREE CATEGORIES IN THE FAMILY:

- 1) *Fathers* = This is a mature believer.
- 2) *Young Men* = Maturing & using the word of God effectively.
- 3) *Children* = New to the faith... more literally “*immature ones*.”

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## THINK OF IT LIKE THIS...

The IMMATURE BELIEVER (*little children*)...

- Is new to the faith and trying to figure out what *right & wrong is*.

\* (Is it wrong to drink alcohol / smoke weed / sleep with my girlfriend / music).

The GROWING BELIEVER (*young men*)...

- Has experienced freedom & victory over sin...  
➤ And the question being asked turns to... *is this good or bad*.

\*(All things are lawful... but not all things are profitable).

The MATURE BELIEVER (*fathers*)...

- Asks... *“Is this the will of God for my life right now?”*

(Eph. 5:17) NKJV

*“Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”*

## IDEA #2 – FAMILY DIRECTION: (vv.15-17)

(vv.15-17)

- Continues the pattern of thought...  
➤ With strong instructions for the Christian...
  - Over three areas:
    - 1) Lust of the flesh
    - 2) Lust of the eyes
    - 3) Pride of life

## BASIC DEFINITIONS:

- 1) *Lust of the flesh* = Gratification of my senses in a way that **contradicts faith in God**.
- 2) *Lust of the eyes* = A cravings triggered by what I see. It goes beyond what God has given me – **leads away from faith in God**.

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3) *Pride of life* = Exaggerated sense of self-importance. Often seen in taking unnecessary risks... maybe even using the word of God out of context to justify bad behavior. In other words... it ***twists faith in God***.

ALL of these are all spiritually toxic...

- And used by Satan... to get us outside the will of God for our lives!

FLIP TO (Matt. 4)

Satan came to Jesus at His weakest human point...

- He seduced a natural need (hunger) and wanted Jesus to satisfy it...  
➤ In a way that was outside of the Father's will.

(Matt. 4:3-4)

Temptation that **contradicts faith in God**.

- *Lust of the flesh* (temporary cravings).

(Matt 4:5-7)

Temptation with a sense of self-importance as Satan **twists the words of faith**.

- Taking the word of God out of context to support my agenda!  
➤ *Pride of life*

(Matt 4:8-10)

Temptation for passing pleasure that leads believers **away from faith in God**

- *Lust of the eyes*

**HERE'S THE POINT...**

- John was addressing the church with general truths...  
➤ To ensure that the family of faith...
  - Was free from common pitfalls.

**~IN CLOSING~**

I WANT TO DISTRIBUTE...

- The grace of God over your life...