

(1 John 2:18-27)
“Family Warning”

~LET'S PRAY~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled todays message: **“Family Warning.”**
➤ READ (1 John 2:18-27) NKJV.

~INTRO~

LAST WEEK... WE TURNED A CORNER...

- As we studied (vv.12-17)...
➤ By seeing how John was addressing the Churches.

THE TAKE AWAY BOILED DOWN TO TWO THINGS:

1) ***The Family Make Up*** (vv.12-14)

- Fathers – mature believers.
- Young men – growing believers.
- Children – new believers.

AND WE BROKE IT DOWN...

- Into some basic understanding like this:

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

- Is new to the faith and trying to figure out what's *right & wrong*.
 - Intoxication / sex / & entertainment.

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

- Has experienced some freedom & victory over sin...
 - And the questions being asked turn to... *is this good or bad*.
 - All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable.

iii. The MATURE BELIEVER (*fathers*)...

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

2) ***Family Direction*** (vv.15-17)

- i. *Lust of the flesh* = **Contradicts faith in God.**
- ii. *Lust of the eyes* = **Leads away from faith in God.**
- iii. *Pride of life* = **Twists faith in God.**

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(1st John) WAS WRITTEN...

- As a book of practical proofs to see if a person is in the faith.

JOHN SAID... MANY CLAIM TO BE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST...

- But they don't obey Christ.
➤ AND John tells us they are liars AND the truth is not in them!

~STUDY~

HERE'S A FEW THINGS WE CAN LEARN TODAY:

BIG IDEA – RECOGNIZE THE TIME: (vv.18-19)

OK...

- John circles back to the “*little children*” (v.13)...
➤ Those who are NEW to the faith.

AND HE SETS THE URGENCY OF THE HOUR...

- With two critical lessons for the church: (v.18)

1) Statement... “*It is the last hour*”

THIS PHRASE...

- Does NOT describe a *duration of time*...
➤ But a *kind of time*¹

LET ME GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE...

- (Rev. 1:1) NKJV
➤ “*Shortly*”... The idea is NOT soon, BUT suddenly.

OK... THE SECOND THING JOHN SAYS IN (v.18)...

2) Signs of... “*the last hour*”

Antichrist = (Singular) A specific title of the man from (Rev. 13:1)... who is the beast rising out of the sea with both political & economic power.

(Rev. 13:1-2) NKJV says...

¹ Charles Swindoll, New Testament Commentary of (1 John 2:18) (p.62). Copyright 2018.

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- (v.1) Where he comes from = Gentile nations.
- (v.2a) Traits he possesses = Resembles kings from the past.
➤ (Greece / Medo-Persian / Babylon)
- (v.2b) The power he has = Comes from Satan.
➤ c.p. (Matt. 4:8-9) NKJV

NEXT WE HAVE...

antichrists = (plural) This is NOT the sinister character in Revelation. Rather this describes many people who are defiant toward authority; rebellious;

- AND breach or abandon the Christian faith.

THIS TYPE OF PERSON...

- Is also referred to as an apostate = From the Greek word *apostasia*

IT'S A TECHNICAL WORD...

- From the 1st century... that described political revolts. ²

AND... IN THE CHURCH...

- An apostate is revealed in two main forms:

a) They **fall away from the doctrines** of the historical church.

THE SECOND TRAIT OF AN apostate

b) **Renounce** the Christian faith & **abandon** Christ's body.

(v.19) NLT

Observation – there are many people who get sifted off...

- OR pruned away from churches.

AND... we should come to maturity BY understanding...

- **It's a healthy body that can purge the poison from itself.**

SO TOO... AT DIFFERENT TIMES...

² Got questions Ministry. Sourced on 11/04/2023 from <https://www.gotquestions.org/apostasy.html>.

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- This fellowship... sees people come and go.
 - And I want to remind you...
 - To use the lens of scripture to understand turn-over.

BECAUSE WHEN DOCTRINE IS DISCARDED...

- OR relationships are broken off in unbiblical ways...
 - You can be sure there's an UNGODLY PERSON...
 - (An apostate) in your midst.

HERE'S THE POINT... DON'T MISS IT...

- John doesn't want the church to be deceived!

READ (v.22) Who is a liar?

- From the beginning of this epistle...
 - John has been using this word **liar** frequently.

(1 John 2:4) NLT

“If someone claims, ‘I know God,’ but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth.

REMEMBER...

- There are relational standards...
 - God has placed within His word.

AND A FOLLOWER OF JESUS...

- Will not live in an ongoing pattern of opposition...
 - To what God has said!
 - Unless... they're a “Liar”
 - a) One who breaks faith.
 - b) One who does not have faith.

READ (vv.26-27)

IF CHRIST IS ALIVE IN YOU...

- Then you'll want to be filled with His ways!

~IN CLOSING~

I WANT TO DISTRIBUTE...

(1 John 2:18-27)
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- The grace of God over your life in three ways:

#1) IF YOU WANT TO BECOME...

- Part of the family of God you have to acknowledge Jesus in your life.
➤ By submitting to His ways.

*[Jesus] I Am the way the truth and the life
and no man comes to the Father except thru me.*

#2) PERHAPS...

- You're a person who has abused the family...
➤ And you need to make amends today.

#3) MAYBE YOU'RE A PERSON LIKE JONAH...

- You're NOT denying your affiliation with God...
○ You're denying your assignment from God.

~ COMMUNION ~