

THE LAW OF GOD AND THE LOVE OF GOD

Lesson Aim: Seek to obey God's laws, so His love is perfected in you and you know you are in Him.

Suggestion: Have the students read the Scriptures and answer the questions in the student lesson; then ask the following questions for class discussion.

How can we live in God's light? 2:1-2

Detect a temptation to sin. Determine not to sin. Depend on God to provide a way to escape the temptation to sin (1 Cor 10:13). Depart from sin (1 Cor 10:14; 2 Tim 2:22). If you do sin, go to Jesus as soon as you realize you have sinned and tell him exactly how you sinned. He is your lawyer. He will take care of you. He has access to the Father, because He satisfied His just demand for fellowship with you when He died for your sins.

What is proof that we are saved and are living in God's light? 2:3-6

When we keep His commandments, it proves we know God and are saved. Obeying His commandments also perfects His love in us. As we obey God's command to love others, His love is being improved in us. Obeying God brings us into His light and it grows brighter as we obey Him more and more (Prov 4:18). Since we claim to abide in His Son for salvation, we ought to live as He lived, which was in perfect obedience to His Father.

What commandment must we obey to live in God's light? 2:7-11

The old commandment and the new commandment are the same: we must love our brother (neighbor) as ourselves (Lev 19:18). That was a command as old as the Law given to Moses. This command is new in the sense that it is a fresh command. Jesus Christ brought true light into the world to dispel the darkness of all sin including hate (Jn 1:4, 5, 9). He gave His followers a fresh command to love one another as He had loved them (Jn 13:34). He showed what it meant to love another when He humbly washed their feet in the upper room and then suffered on the cross to pay the penalty for their sins (1 Pet 2:21-24). The Holy Spirit will enable the followers of Jesus to love one another when they yield to His control (Gal 5:22).

Why are we told not to love the world or the things of the world? 2:15-17

Believers are not to love the world system, which has been under the control of Satan since the day he usurped it from Adam. So the things of the world, tangible and intangible, are contaminated by sin and should not be loved, such as money, entertainment, power, idolatry, adultery, violence, hatred. This world system and its lust are not of the Father and will pass away. They have no lasting value. Believers will be able to love the world system and the things in it when Jesus Christ reigns on the earth as the King of kings. He will rule the earth in righteousness and it will have lasting value.

Who is antichrist? 2:18-23

He that denies that Jesus is the Christ not only denies the Son, but also the Father (2:22). False teachers claimed that Jesus was an ordinary man, but Christ was God and came upon him at His baptism. He left Jesus before He was crucified, because God cannot die. If that were true, Jesus' blood is not divine and cannot take away our sins. If we deny the Son, who is Jesus Christ, both God and man, we deny the Father, since the Son revealed the Father to us (2:23).

Who is the anointing that abides in us? 2:24-27

The Holy Spirit abides in us and anoints our minds with understanding. He teaches that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. Any spirit that teaches that Jesus Christ has not come in the flesh is the spirit of antichrist (4:2-3).

These are answers to questions that every new believer needs to know.