

1 John: 1 John 2:18-3:10
Discussion Guide, September 6, 2020
Next week's text: 1 John 3:11-24

CHECK UP:

Memory Work Review: *Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. - 1 John 2:15-17*

- How did you live out your last week's commitments?
 - o From challenges in previous weeks, what areas are you still struggling with?

OPEN:

- What makes someone a false teacher?
 - o What is the difference between someone who is a false teacher and someone who has a different interpretation?
 - o Are there instances when two people can have two different interpretations and neither of them be a false teacher?
 - o How can we guard against true false teachers?

READ and ASK: 1 John 2:18-3:10

- What does John call the false teachers/trouble makers who have left the church?
 - o What danger do such people present to the church?
 - o What kind of person does John call an antichrist?
- When you think of a group being led astray, what do you think of?
 - o What false teachings do you think is leading most people from Christ within the church (in our culture)?
 - o How can a Christian recognize and deal with our society's "whatever is right for you" attitude (moral relativism)?
- What is promised to those who remain in Christ?
 - o What does it mean to remain in the Son and in the Father?

- What would you say to someone who uses this text to say that there is no need for Bible teachers? (consider other texts on spiritual gifts/roles given to the church and to the role the Spirit plays in community vs just individuals).
- How does remembering your identity in Christ help you stay grounded when you are confronted with strange teachings?
- What are some clear characteristics of people “born of God?”
- What does John mean in 3:6 and 3:10 when he says that a Christian does not sin?

APPLY:

- What criteria can you use to distinguish between new insights into Christian truths that the Holy Spirit brings to light versus new teachers that undermine the Christian faith?
 - o Do you think there are some specific groups trying to lead believers away from Christ today? How so? How can we be wise in the way we resist such influences?
 - o How prepared do you feel to resist false teachings?
 - What intentional steps do you need to take to prepare yourself against false teachings?
- This past week did you feel more like a child of God or a distant relative? Why?
 - o NEXT STEP: What specific step do you need to take to intentionally remain in Christ this week?

Memory Work:

And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

- 1 John 2:28-29