



SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

Pastor Charlie Riley

1ST JOHN PART 3

OPENING & PRAYER:

Today, we dove deep into the heart of 1 John, exploring what it means to live as children of God in a world that often misunderstands or even opposes the truth of Jesus. John's words remind us that we are living in the "last hour," a time marked by the presence of many who oppose Christ—not just in open hostility, but often in subtle distortions of who Jesus is. The spirit of antichrist isn't just about being anti-religion; it's specifically about being anti-Jesus, denying His divinity, His relationship with the Father, and His role as Messiah.

"Lord, thank You for bringing us together in this moment right now. We ask that You would stir our hearts and minds to be curious about You and kind to one another. Please reveal more of Yourself to us as we grow closer to You and one another. We thank You for this small group time we're about to have. In Jesus' name, amen."

SCRIPTURE:

Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist (A Specific Person) is coming, even now many antichrists (People – “Against” or “In place of Christ”) have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. **1 John 2:18-19**

But you have an anointing (H.S. Unction - The Holy Spirit) from the Holy One, and you know all things (No Need For Gnostics Secret Knowledge). I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth. **1 John 2:20-21**

Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also. **1 John 2:22-23**

Therefore let that (The Anointing - Unction - H.S. - Knowledge of The Father and The Son) abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life (Noun - Zoe) **1 John 2:24-25**

These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you. But the anointing (H.S. Unction - Presence of The Holy Spirit) which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing (H.S. Unction -Presence of The Holy Spirit) teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him. **1 John 2:26-27**

And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him. **1 John 2:28-29**

Behold (Greek “ideate” – Look at this!) what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know

(THIS IS NOT ABOUT INFORMATION: But Rather Intimacy, Fellowship and Connection) us, because it did not know Him. (Intimacy, Fellowship and Connection) **1 John 3:1**

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. **1 John 3:2-3**

Whoever commits sin (Noun) also commits lawlessness, and sin (Noun) is lawlessness. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins (Noun), and in Him there is no sin (Noun). Whoever abides in Him does not sin (Verb). Whoever sins (Verb) has neither seen Him nor known Him. **1 John 3:4-5**

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 8:31-32

Whoever sins (Verb) has neither seen Him nor known Him. **1 John 3:6**

No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. **John 1:18**

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? **John 14:9**

Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. **1 John 3:7**

He who sins (Noun) is of the devil, for the devil has sinned (Verb) from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin (Noun), for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin (Verb), because he has been born of God. **1 John 3:8-9**

In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. **1 John 3:10-12**

Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life (Noun- Zoen –Root Zoe) abiding in him. **1 John 3:13-15**

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? **1 John 3:16-17**

My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. **1 John 3:18-20**

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. **1 John 3:21-23**

Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. **1 John 3:24**

GO DEEPER:

We talked about the importance of discernment, that every believer has an "anointing"—an unction from the Holy Spirit—that helps us recognize truth from error. This isn't about having secret knowledge or spiritual elitism, as the Gnostics claimed, but about the Spirit of God guiding us into all truth. Sometimes, you'll encounter teachings or ideas that sound right on the surface, but something in your spirit feels off. That's the Holy Spirit prompting you to pause, pray, and seek God's wisdom before accepting anything as truth.

John also draws a clear line: anyone who denies Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, is operating in the spirit of antichrist. This isn't just a theological debate; it's a matter of spiritual life and death. Our faith is rooted in the reality that Jesus is the Messiah, fully God and fully man, and that through Him we are born again—transformed from the inside out. The world may not understand us, and that's to be expected, because it doesn't know Him. But we are called to abide in Christ, not just believe in Him for salvation, but to walk daily in union, obedience, and love.

Abiding is more than a one-time decision; it's a continual, living relationship. It's about letting the truth of who Jesus is shape every part of our lives, trusting that the Spirit within us will keep us from deception and lead us into abundant, eternal life—the God kind of life. And while we may not know exactly what we will be when Christ returns, we have the hope and promise that we will be like Him, purified by this hope and empowered to live as true children of God.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- 1. The Spirit of Antichrist Denies Jesus' Identity.** The most dangerous opposition to Christ isn't always open hostility, but subtle distortions that deny Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God. This spirit can even appear religious, but it ultimately rejects the core of the gospel. We must be vigilant, recognizing that any teaching which diminishes or denies Jesus' divinity is not from God, no matter how spiritual it sounds. **[16:19]**
- 2. Every Believer Has the Anointing to Discern Truth.** God has given each of us the Holy Spirit, an inner "unction" that helps us discern right from wrong, truth from error. This isn't about secret knowledge or spiritual superiority, but about a living relationship with God who leads us into all truth. When something feels off in your spirit, pause and seek God's wisdom—He is faithful to guide you. **[06:07]**
- 3. Abiding in Christ Is a Daily, Ongoing Relationship.** Believing in Jesus brings salvation, but abiding in Him is about daily discipleship—living in faith, love, obedience, and self-denial. It's not about perfection, but about continually yielding to the Spirit, letting His life flow through us. This abiding keeps us rooted in truth and empowers us to live as God's children in a world that doesn't understand us. **[25:32]**
- 4. Our Hope: Becoming Like Christ When He Appears.** Though we don't know all the details of our future in eternity, we have the promise that when Jesus is revealed, we will be like Him. This hope purifies us, motivating us to pursue holiness and intimacy with God now, trusting that our ultimate transformation is secure in Christ. **[28:52]**

LEARNING AND GROWING:

1. What does John say every believer has that helps them discern truth from error? **([06:07])**
2. The sermon talked about the “anointing” or “unction” from the Holy Spirit. How does this inner witness help believers when they encounter teachings or ideas that seem “off”? **([06:07])**
3. John draws a line between believing in Jesus and abiding in Him. What is the difference between the two, and why does it matter for our daily walk? **([25:32])**
4. John says every believer has an “anointing” to discern truth. What are some practical ways you can pause and seek God’s wisdom when something feels off, instead of just going along with it? **([06:07])**
5. The sermon talked about the privilege of being called children of God. How does knowing you are God’s child affect your confidence, your decisions, or the way you relate to others? **([28:52])**

CLOSING PRAYER:

“Father, thank you for the opportunities to grow in our faith. We will continue to lean on Your Word as we grow to bring people to know you. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”