



PUT UP OR SHUT UP

Studies in 1, 2, 3 John & Jude

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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True Colors

Introduction to 1 John 2:3-29

Like the 1986 song by Cyndi Lauper of the same name, a person's true colors really do shine through. It is another way of saying that our inner person will eventually become visible in real life. This is what 1 John 2 says: true believers will show their genuineness by the way they act, or if they are false that will show, too. This chapter gives three outward signs of true belief. First, true believers adhere to the new commandment. This is really an old commandment that has been renewed through Jesus' life, the commandment to love one another. While it is old because the Old Testament said to "love your neighbor as yourself", it is also new because Jesus said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another." It was new because the light of Jesus made its meaning clear. The

second sign of true believers is that they don't follow false teachers, called antichrists by John. Antichrists are those who oppose Christ, and although they are in the fellowship for a time, they prove that they are false because they don't remain. True believers don't follow such teachers for several reasons. One is that they have a personal relationship with the Father and have overcome the evil one through God's Word. They also recognize the sins that come from the world of evil and they realize that such teachers are false because they have abandoned the fellowship. Most importantly, though, they know the truth internally because they have an "anointing" from God. This anointing refers to the Holy Spirit who is within every true believer. This corresponds to the "law of God written on our hearts" as was promised in



Our fellowship is authentic when our beliefs, obedience and love are true.

the "new" covenant found in Jeremiah 31. Finally, true believers are obvious because they abide or remain in the teachings of Christ, a direct result of this anointing that each of them has. They must make the choice to abide in the message of the gospel given to them at the beginning of their faith in Christ, and if they do they will abide in the Father and the Son. They will have the promise of eternal life as well. And then, since they know God is righteous they will practice righteousness, too, being born of Him. Their true colors will shine through.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

Daily Study Questions for 1 John 2:3-29

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com, small groups, abf)

1. Read 1 John 2:3-6. What is a sign of knowing Jesus (v3), and what are some other ways of saying this (v5, 6)? What does it show if we don't (v4) and if we do (v5)?	
2. In 2:7-8 in what sense was the commandment that John was giving old (v7)? How was it new (v8)?	
3. From 2:9-11 what was the "old"/"new" commandment (v9-10)? What is the effect of "hating" your Christian brother (v9, 11) and of loving him (v10)?	

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I John 2:3-29 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Using 1 John 2:12-14 identify the three groups (v12-13) and why John wrote to each (v12-14). Who do you think each group refers to, and what each description means?

5. Read 2:15-17. What should we not do (v15) and why (v15, 16, 17)? What are the 3 categories of sin in the world (v16)?

6. According to 2:18-19 in what stage of history was John writing (v18) and what do you think this means? What showed this (v18) and how did it become evident (v19)? Apply.

7. In 2:20-23 how do believers spot the one opposed to Christ (v22-23)? How do they know internally (v20-21)? What do you think anointing means?

8. From 2:24-25 what must abide or remain in us (v24) and why (v24)? What will be the result (v25)?

9. Based on 2:26-27 why did John write to them (v26)? Why did they not need to listen to false teachers (v27)? What must believers “abide” in (v27)?

10. Looking at 2:28-29 what will allow us to have confidence when we stand before Jesus at the end (v28, 29)?

11. How do the “true colors” of a believer show through in 2:3-11, 12-23, and 24-29? Why do these reveal the genuineness of our Christianity?

Scripture to Remember

“Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

1 John 2:15 (NAS)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—How to Be Happy Though Married (Col 3:18-19)

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Share about a time in school or childhood when you were “made” to do something. How did that feel? Why is submission to authority so difficult?
2. Read Col 3:18-19. In what sense are we to submit to the Lord, to governing authorities, to fellow Christians, and husbands to wives? What does submission mean?
3. Discuss why submission never means inferiority, and why it must be voluntary to be worthwhile. Why is it important for both husbands and wives to remember this?
4. Using Christ as the example how are husbands to lead their wives? In other words what is “spiritual” leadership—what does it look like? Why is this difficult?
5. Describe how Christ loves His people both sacrificially and submissively. How can husbands apply that to their love for their wives?
6. Why is it important for husbands to be reminded to not become embittered against their wives? What is the best way to overcome that based on 1 Pet 3:7?
7. Bring up anything else important to you from Sunday's message if there is time.