

**Sermon Notes of
Pastor Craig Kuhlman's Sermon on July 21, 2019:**

**"Transformed by Love Series (Letters of John):
Abide in the Truth (1 John 2:18-29)
(Part 5)"**

[In today's sermon, Pastor Craig Kuhlman shows us that we need to be so thankful to God for calling us into that wonderful relationship we have with Him so that we're able to not allow false messages about Jesus to influence us and make us feel guilty.]

Notes

Introduction:

- Here's a provocative question for all of us here today.
- "When was the last time you came to church on Sunday?"
- This is a preview of our passage we're going to cover today in 1 John.
- Many churches make attending services a salvational issue and use these verses in 1 John 2 as their backup, which is incorrect.
- John is not talking about lazy believers here or distracted believers or exhausted believers.
- Rather, John is writing about false teachers.
- John laid out three identify hallmarks of these "antichrists" or false teachers.

Recap of 1 John 2:12-17

1. John writes to remind us our sins are forgiven and we've overcome the evil one.
2. Believers aren't to love the world's systems.
3. The world's systems trends toward lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and pride of life.
4. This world's systems and these lusts are fading away.
5. Believer's live by the will of the God and will live forever.

In Preview (1 John 2:18-29):

*Some have left us and no longer remain,
Evidence that Jesus was never their gain.
Believers in Jesus maintain their trust,
Abiding in Him is our primary must.*

*Anointing Spirit in us abides,
Jesus himself in us resides.
So abide in Truth, abide in the Son,
Let confidence, not shame, declare we have won.*

False teachers depart from the fellowship (2:18-19):

- Today's passage should not scare us into fear, shame guilt or doubt.
- Primarily this is a passage of warning to those Christians at that time, but it's also a warning for us today, as well.
- The Greek word we translate "antichrist" can mean "against Christ" or "instead of Christ."
- John tells us that false teachers not only depart from our fellowship but also encourage others to do the same thing.

1 John 2:18 (NASB), Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

- When John refers to the "last hour", he is referring to the time between the times of Jesus' first coming in his Incarnation and His second coming in the Spirit.
- Now "the antichrist" is known as the end time "great deceiver" – but John isn't talking about him but rather the lesser antichrists of his day.

19) They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

- John isn't talking about believers leaving the church but people, who were not-yet-believers leaving.
- Those not-yet-believers, who were attending church, did so without a believing heart.
- Now, a believing heart is what anoints us with the Holy Spirit.
- Now, we believe that all are God's children, believers and not-yet-believers, because of the Incarnation of Jesus.
- Now, not-yet-believers don't have that relationship and don't have that communion with God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- In John's day, the church was dealing with those who were infiltrating the church so they could attack and persuade against those believers in Christ.
- Now, today, any gospel that doesn't say that Jesus is the Son of God, who came in the flesh and now is also Divine is a false gospel.
- Any gospel that doesn't acknowledge that Jesus is working out the spirit of reconciliation through the Holy Spirit of changing and bringing not-yet-believers into that relationship of the Father, Son and Spirit is a false gospel.
- Christ is at the center of the true gospel.
- When we start our Christian message with who is Jesus and then work out from that center, then we know whether it's true or false.
- The reconciling ministry of the Holy Spirit reveals Jesus as our Savior, which John emphasizes here.

1 John 2:18 (Mirror), Children, this is the completeness of time; the revelation of Christ brings finality and closure to the hour; which makes the anti-Christ system now more

apparent than ever, just as it was rumored. There are many who have positioned themselves against the Christ; blatantly opposing grace; this confirms that time has reached its most extreme context! The days of confusion between two opposing systems are over!

19) Here there remains no room for hiding in compromise mode! Pretense is no disguise; the grace and finished work of Christ has absolutely nothing in common with religious systems that continue to keep people enslaved to their programs and rituals of outdated sentimental ideals! Their departure from amongst us simply reveal they never really embraced Christ; one cannot be for and against Christ at the same time!

- This clarifies that those who left the church back then were never believers of Christ at all.
- They opposed Christ's message and were against Him or denied Him.

False teachers deny the truth (2:20-25):

1 John 2:20 (NASB), But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. 21) I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

- John is defining his audience here as believers who know the truth – Truth with a capital T because Jesus said "I am the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6).
- Now there is also truth in the gospels, which we can't deny.
- As historians will tell us, the false teachers were denying either the humanity of Christ or they were denying the divinity of Christ.
- But the truth is that the Truth (Jesus) was both divine and human, who bridged the way to include all humanity into God's family.

22) Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ?

- The false teachers were denying that Jesus is the Christ.
- But, as believers, we embrace Jesus as our Savior.

22b) This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. 23) Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

24) As for you, let that 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. 25) This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.

- The New American Standard Bible (NASB) uses the term "abide" while other translations use the phrase "walking in."
- John, in his gospel, tells us to "abide in the vine" (John 15). And who is the vine? Jesus.
- Both terms "abide" or "walking in" imply participation and action of some sort in a Christian's life.
- John doesn't tell us that we can retire in the Spirit or relax in the Spirit.
- Our real Christian life is our participation with Jesus.

1 John 2:20 (Mirror), The Christ anointing within you is evidence that you echo what you carry! The Holy Spirit has made him tangible in your life, and you see clearly.

- We see it clearly, because of the Spirit in us.

21) My writing to you is not to question your perception of the truth, but to endorse it! No form of deception can possibly co-exist with truth.

- Scriptures are often misused to create fear, shame, guilt or doubt in believers' minds.

22) Deception just cannot see that Jesus is the Christ. The anti-Christ system contradicts both the Father and the Son. 23) You cannot have the one without the other! To reject the one is to reject the other. What you say about the Son, immediately reflects your opinion of the Father!

24) Make that which you have heard from the beginning your permanent reference; and what I have written in the beginning of this letter will be your testimony too! The same constant that is enjoyed in the fellowship of the Father and the Son is yours!

- The fellowship that we experience with the Father, Son and Spirit is the same fellowship that they experience themselves together.
- This is one of the reasons Christians fellowship together – to experience that triune Godly fellowship.
- We can lift each other up and encourage one another because of that relationship of God that we experience.
- God's Spirit brings us together as part of His family.
- There is a different experience we have when believers get together, as opposed to getting together with not-yet-believers, because the Spirit connects believers in a supernatural way.

25) This is the essence of the life of the ages which he has announced and purposed from the beginning.

False teachers try to deceive the faithful (2:26-29):

1 John 2:26 (NASB), These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.

- When we, as believers, have that Spirit in us, He immediately identifies a false doctrine.

27) As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

- So, it's all part of our relationship as we abide in the Father, Son and Spirit and participate with Him.

28) Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

- Christians will have confidence in Christ's return and not have fear.
- Comedian Richard Pryor said (in paraphrase), "Man there are a lot of guys out there who tend to be evangelists, who tend to be preachers and say, 'Give me some money for Jesus, give me some money for Jesus, I want our money for Jesus.' The truth is that if Jesus came back today, He would scare the living ***** out of them."
- Now Christians have no need of fear, for when Jesus returns we will welcome Him, because we know who we are.

29) If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

- Out of our relationship we have in Jesus, we are righteous.

1 John 2:26 (Mirror), My intention with this writing is to nullify the influence of those who wish to unsettle you.

- John is encouraging believers not to allow these false teachers to have an impact on them.

27) I am convinced that the effect of this touch within you is permanent; this is the Christ-anointing that teaches you all things, so that you do not need any teacher whose doctrine does not resonate with truth. Deception cannot compete with spirit-resonance.

28) So now, just like an infant in a mother's embrace, abide in this place of innocence where his manifest appearance is meant to be fully realized and echoed in unashamed utterance! In his immediate presence there exist no sense of shame or any form of separation!

29) To perceive God's righteousness as defining his "I am-ness," concludes that everyone born of him inherently partakes of the same pattern and poetry that his righteousness inspires. Righteousness is our true genesis.

In Summary (1 John 2:18-29):

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Evidence that Jesus was never their gain.
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*Anointing Spirit in us abides,
Jesus himself in us resides.
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Closing prayer