

I John

Listen Up, Kids!

I John 2:1-14

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. ³ We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. ⁴ The man who says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But if anyone obeys his word, God’s love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶ Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. ⁷ Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. ⁸ Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. ⁹ Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. ¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. ¹¹ But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

¹² I write to you, dear children,
because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

¹³ I write to you, fathers,
because you have known him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men,
because you have overcome the evil one.

I write to you, dear children,
because you have known the Father.

¹⁴ I write to you, fathers,
because you have known him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men,
because you are strong,
and the word of God lives in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.

1. How do **vs. 1-2** state the purpose of John’s entire letter?

- What comfort does it give to know that Jesus is our Advocate and the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world?

2. **Verse 2** says Jesus died for all. How’s that shape the way you view others – especially those who don’t yet believe or who’ve wandered from faith?

3. In vs. 3-6, is John preaching a requirement for salvation or is he describing the fruit of genuine faith? Explain what he means. See also **James 1:22-25; 2:14-26**.
4. What does it mean that God's love is made complete in those who obey his word?
5. What is the old command God's people have had since the beginning? Why does John call it a new command? See **John 13:34**.
6. John's words in **vs. 9-11** are both simple and searching. How does it feel to read these verses? How do these verses challenge you personally?
 - What guidance do they give to congregations?
7. How do truth and love depend on each other? Can one exist without the other?
8. In **vs. 12-14**, why does John write to "dear children," "fathers," and "young men"? What does this say about assurance and growth in the faith for those who are planted and rooted in the gospel of Jesus?
9. How's this section give you assurance even as it calls to obedience and love?