

April 5, 2011

In the World, Not of It

1 John 1:1 – 2:17

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship (*communion- koinonia*) with us; and indeed our fellowship (*communion- koinonia*) is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship (*communion- koinonia*) with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship (*communion- koinonia*) with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. ³And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵but whoever keeps (guards) his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

⁷Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. ⁸At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. ⁹Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. ¹⁰Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. ¹¹But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

¹²I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.

¹³I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.

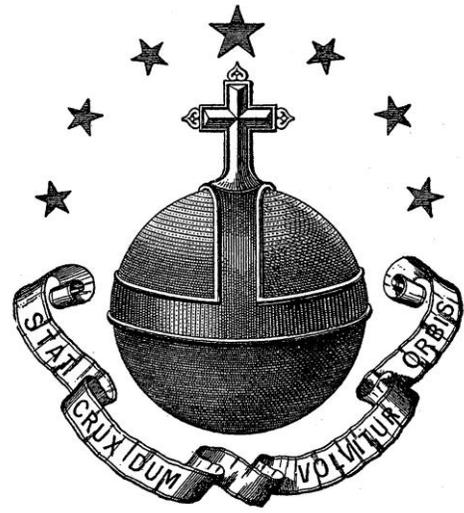
I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.

I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

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

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

¹⁵Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.



1 What does this verse tell us about the author of this letter/sermon?

3 "so that you too may have fellowship"- this is more than hang out, having hot dogs- *Koinonia!*

4 The purpose of the letter- Joy through unity of Faith

1:5 – 3:12 forms a major theme for this epistle: “In the World, Not of It”

- A) Because his blood cleanses us from all sin (1:5 – 2:2)
- B) Because the true light is already shining (2:3-11)
- C) Because the world is passing away (2:12-17)

5 Light & Darkness is common for John (Jn 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12; Rev 8, 18, 21, 22)

6 Truth & Lies is ALSO common for John (Jn 1, 3-8, 17-19, 21; 2 Jn; 3 Jn; Rev 3, 6, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22)
Koinonia count is up to 3!

7 “The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin”- Blood? Read Leviticus! (Lev 16- Atonement)
Koinonia count is up to 4! What is *Koinonia*? TLSB- *more than friendship; a common sharing of something (in this case, someone). Christians have a common share in God the Father through the human nature of Jesus. Since we are all members of one Body of Christ, we share in fellowship with all other Christians through Jesus.*

8-9 Sound familiar, don’t they? From whence have you learnt these words?

10 This is not part of our Liturgy- how does it differ from vv 8-9? Why is the distinction important?

2:1 “My little children”- similar to his introduction and conclusion of 2nd John
“an advocate with the Father”- a legal term, think “defense attorney.”

2:2 “propitiation”- a word meaning “satisfaction for the demands of God’s Law” (Rom 3:21-26)
“not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world”- There is NO limit on His Atonement!!
But why some and not others? The Unanswerable Question

2:3-4 These are pretty hard to swallow- how can we balance 1:8-10 with 2:3-4?

2:5 “but whoever keeps (guards) his word,”- His Word is more than commandments and Law
“in him truly the love of God is perfected”- one little word, “of,” makes this confusing.

- Is God the subject? God’s love (for him)
- Is God the object? His love of/for God
- Is it an adjective? His God-like/Godly love (a general attribute of “him”)

2:6 “the same way in which he walked”- let’s describe this in detail (hint: use the creed if you need help)

2:7-11 Darkness / Light; Hate / Love; Let’s talk about Love...

2:12-14- children, fathers, young men- terms for the Family of the Church at different stages of growth

2:15-17- John provides a dichotomy between the World and God- the World is passing away!