

Love Flows

1st John 2:3-17

A. _____ God leads to becoming like God. (2:3-6)

Vs 3) The _____ that we have enjoyed ongoing fellowship with God is that we “*keep His commandments.*” The _____ of enjoying ongoing fellowship is a mature relationship with God: We “*know Him.*”

Vs 4) The reverse is true; the _____ that we have not enjoyed ongoing fellowship with Him is if we do “*not keep his commandments.*” The _____ of not enjoying ongoing fellowship is that we are not like God: “*the truth is not in him.*”

Vs 5) The _____ of a mature relationship with God is that, through ongoing fellowship with God in the life of a believer, God’s love has accomplished its purpose – “*the love of God is perfected in him.*”

Vs 6) The _____ is summarized. The believer who is enjoying ongoing fellowship with God will become like God – “*walk just as He walked.*”

B. _____ is preeminent. (2:7-11)

vs 7) In our desire to enjoy fellowship with God, He wants us to focus on _____ one another; this focus is safe for us to trust because God has always taught His people to show love – “*I write... an old commandment.*”

vs 8a) God’s desire for us to focus on loving one another is never out of style; love is _____ needed – “*a new commandment I write to you.*”

vs 8b) Jesus truly focused on loving others, so this commandment “*is true in Him.*” This commandment is also true “*in you*” who have Christ’s love _____ through them – “*the true light is already shining*” in the believer who has been enjoying fellowship with God.

vs 9) When a believer fails to love other believers, this _____ that he is missing out on fellowship with God – “*is in darkness until now.*”

vs 10) The reverse is true. When a believer does love other believers; this _____ that he is enjoying fellowship with God – “*abides in the light.*”

vs 11) If anyone misses this _____ commandment, he can’t help but stumble in his walk with the God of light, “*because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*” Therefore, we conclude that love is the preeminent characteristic of walking in the light.

C. Believers walk with God in various stages of _____. (2:12-14)

Four Greek identifiers to distinguish in 2:12-14:

- 1) *teknion* = children, born ones;
 - a term of endearment for all believers who have been _____.
- 2) *pater* = fathers, aged and mature;
 - a term of honor for _____.
- 3) *neaniskos* = grown-up, maturing;
 - a term of respect for believers who have _____ and are well equipped, but lack experience and have not fully come to know God.
- 4) *paidion* = immature, little kids;
 - a term of endearment for believers who know little more than the fact that they are _____ of God.

What is said of each identifier?

all believers (<i>teknion</i> = children, born ones)		
2:12 – “sins are forgiven for His name’s sake”		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare with Acts 13:38-39, John 1:12-13) 		
aged and mature (<i>pater</i>)	grown-up, maturing (<i>neaniskos</i>)	immature, little kids (<i>paidion</i>)
2:13 – “you have known Him who is from the beginning”	2:13 – “you have overcome the wicked one”	2:13 – “you have known the Father”
2:14 – “you have known Him who is from the beginning”	2:14 – “you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one”	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare 1 John 2:3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 John 2:15-17 are then primarily directed toward this group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look ahead to 1 John 2:18, 21

D. Direct your _____ correctly. (2:15-17)

Vs 15a) The command is to _____ loving the world. Our active choice if we want to pursue a relationship of fellowship with God is to choose out priorities – “*Do not love the world or the things of the world.*”

Vs 15b) The _____ for the command is that when we direct our love toward the world, we stop God’s love from flowing through us – “*the love of the Father is not in him.*”

Vs 16-17) The _____ for and the _____ to heed the command is that what we have available with God is better and eternal – “*the world is passing away,*”

God’s love ought to flow through believers (who have received His love) **toward others** (who need His love). **God’s love will flow best through the believer who is enjoying fellowship with Him and growing to become more like Him.**