

# Lesson 3

## Small Group Discussion

1 John 2:14-27



### Context of the Chapter

Recommended song for worship:

Refiner's Fire - Brian Doerksen



John is adamant throughout his letter that each individual must evaluate if they are “walking in the light,” or in other words, if they truly possess a living relationship with God. A key element of our relationship with God is loving others, especially other brothers and sisters in Christ. In the second half of Chapter 2 the Apostle John changes his focus to warning the church of the dangers of deception. Deception quenches our devotion for God.

So how are we deceived? Primarily in two ways: 1) sinful behavior and 2) false teachers. John explains that the false teachers who have left the church have done so due to their sinful behavior and even due to an insincere faith. John claims that they were never true disciples to begin with. These false teachers sought to spur division amongst the church and gain support from various church gatherings against the teachings of the Apostles. Their spiritual downfall began with a lack of devotion towards Christ. A lack of devotion leads to sin, and sin is the gateway for deception.

### Questions/Sermon Study

#### 1 John 2:15-17

As we fellowship in the Light, we have to guard our desires. We cannot simultaneously desire the world and desire God. In fact, 1 John states that if we love the world, the love of the Father is not in us. A key step in following Jesus is a choice of living a life of surrender. Like Joshua stated to the people of Israel, “Choose this day whom you will serve.”

1. Who will you serve? Look at the cross references below about devotion.

**Luke 9:23-24**

**Matthew 6:24**

**1 Corinthians 10:21**

**Revelation 3:15-16**

- What are areas of your life that compete for your heart? How about areas that you find distracting you from loving God with all of your heart, mind, soul, and strength?
  - Do you feel as if you are at a place in your spiritual journey that you have made the choice to surrender your life to Christ? *We are all a work in progress in living out a life of surrender, but it does begin with a choice by faith.*
  - The desires of the flesh - desires of the eyes - pride of life. These are the areas in which Satan has always tempted the people of God. How did Jesus defeat each one of these temptations in **Luke 4:1-13**? *By using the Word of God.*
2. What is one tool from Christ's example that you can implement in your life to ensure your heart is devoted to God?



## 1 John 2:18-19

The term “antichrist” is used in two different ways in this passage. First, **the** “antichrist” who is prophesied of in Scripture, and he will deceive the world before the coming of Christ.. Secondly it is used to refer to “false teachers” that bring deception on a smaller scale before the Antichrist comes. The word itself is self-explanatory, these teachers are “anti,” or against, the truth about Christ as taught in Scripture. However, this teaching is demonic and can be powerfully deceptive.

3. How can we ensure that we are not being deceived by what we read, listen to, or are taught?
4. What do false teachers do? How can we spot them?

**Matthew 7:15-23**      **2 Timothy 3:1-9**      **2 Timothy 4:3-5**      **Acts 20:28-35**  
*For Personal Study: 2 Peter 2*                      *Book of Jude*

A promise that is found in Scripture is that Jesus is both the “Author” and the “Finisher” of our faith (**Hebrews 12:1-2**). John states that these “church members” who have become false teachers or “antichrists” were not true followers to begin with. It is vital to be aware of not only what people say but also of what they actually do. The genuineness of our faith is seen in our works. False teachers within the church will arise from groups of people who talk a lot but show little to no life change.

## 1 John 2:20-25

The Apostle John encouraged the church because they had proven their genuineness by not departing from the original teaching of the Gospel. There must have been a lot of confusion and hurt amongst the church as they split due to false teachers, and John was encouraging them that by remaining true to the Gospel they would be blessed and have fellowship with God.

5. How can we remain encouraged when challenged in our faith by others?
  1. The first encouragement is that these believers have the Holy Spirit, and they have knowledge through the Spirit of the Gospel.
    - **John 16:8** - *Conviction of the Gospel*
    - **1 Corinthians 2:14-16** - *We have the mind of Christ through the Spirit*
    - **John 16:12-15** - *The Holy Spirit’s Guidance*
  2. The second encouragement is that false teachers can be identified by their denial of the key truths of the Son (Jesus): namely that He came in the flesh, died for our sin, and was God in the flesh.
    - **John 10:22-39**
  3. The final encouragement is that when we hold fast to the truth it is a reminder of our salvation and hope
    - **1 Peter 1:3-9**

## 1 John 2:26-27

The Apostle John concludes his encouragement in vs 27 by reaffirming his confidence in the Holy Spirit’s work on a believer. He is not advocating for the church not to have “teachers,” but rather he is encouraging them that they do not need a teacher to confirm the Gospel in which they have already received and been sealed with the Holy Spirit. That is one of the functions of the Holy Spirit, is that He confirms the message of Christ in our heart. It is important that we are continually equipped and taught by the leaders God puts in our life, but it is also important that we read the Scriptures for ourselves and have confidence in the Holy Spirit’s guidance to lead us to the truth.

6. How do you see the Holy Spirit work in your life?
  1. Prayer: **Romans 8:26-27**
  2. Conviction: **John 16:8**
  3. Empowerment: **Romans 8:1-11 & Titus 3:1-7**
  4. Gifts: **1 Corinthians 12:1-11**
  5. Assurance of Salvation: **Ephesians 1:13-14**

## Discipleship Focus & Challenge

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**We are a church on mission to raise up disciple-makers who share the Gospel where we live, work and play.**

*A disciple's heart posture is to be a lifelong follower, student, example, and teacher of Jesus Christ.*

**Luke 9:23** - Follower  
**John 15:1-8** - Student  
**John 13:34-35** - Example  
**Matthew 28:18-20** - Teacher

## Fall Campaign Challenge #3 - Be an example!

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**1 John 2:15-27** warns us of the power and damage of deception. None of us are “above” being deceived, so we must be on guard. The easiest way for us to become vulnerable to deception is a lack of devotion to God. Sin is the gateway for the “antichrist” spirit or teaching to begin to work on our hearts. If we are focused on the truth, the power of the Holy Spirit, and actively obeying God out of love, our hearts will remain sensitive to the truth.

In **John 13:34-35**, Jesus tells us that as His disciples we must love others as He has loved us. In living out Christ's example of love and sacrifice we will be on guard against the lies and schemes of the enemy. Each day this week ask God to give you a heart totally devoted to Him. As you ask this question, be sure to listen to the conviction of the Holy Spirit on how you ought to obey God. The Holy Spirit may convict you through prayer, the Word of God, a fellow Believer, or through your thoughts (all of which should align with God's Word). Do not push off obedience! At the end of the week do a quick journal entry on how God answered your prayer.

## Memorize: 1 John 4:7-8

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“Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God.  
Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.  
But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”