



REALITY CHECK

1 JOHN 2:1-11

Background

Date: 80's Author/Reader: Apostle John/Circular Letter

Occasion: Firm faith against seductive false teaching

Theme: Live in the Light. Christ is the Light.

Tone: A father's heart to clarify, assure, gird, and guide

¹My 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 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 him¹ 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. (1John 2:1-11 ESV)

The Necessary Foundation: _____ (2:1-2)

"Walking in the light is not only characterized by the absence of sin but equally importantly by the presence of love." ~ David Jackman

A Reassuring Presence: _____ (2:3-6)

A Conspicuous Absence: _____ (2:7-11)

Going Deeper

(For individual or small groups to go deeper with the passage)

1. Read 1 John 2:1-11 two or three times. What words stand out to you?
2. Read John 14. What are some connections with 1 John 2:1-11?
3. How do the following two statements differ? "If you obey Jesus He will love you." "If you love Jesus you will obey Him." Why is the distinction important?
4. What are the commands John is thinking of (c.f. 1 John 3:23)? Do you think John is thinking about "commands" like traffic codes or decrees of God's desires? Why?
5. What are two ways that God is at work in a believer's life in 1 John 2:1-11?
6. Jesus commands us to "love" our brothers/sisters. How can you love someone who has hurt you? Does love require trusting or accepting? How might love and tolerance be antithetical at times?
7. Spiritual Exercise: Find a way to remind yourself throughout the day to "walk as Jesus did" this week. Use the reminder to cultivate experiencing the presence of God in contemplation, conversation with Him, and obedience to His leading.