

1 John 2

Remember to consult your study Bible and the sermons on our website if you get stuck.

1. The word “advocate” in verse 1 refers to a legal representative who speaks on behalf of the accused. Why does the Christian need a heavenly advocate? How should the truth in this verse influence our thinking when we realize that we have sinned?
2. Define the word “propitiation” by considering the context of verse 2 and by consulting the following passages which use the same word: Romans 3:25; Hebrews 2:17; Luke 18:13.
3. If no Christian is capable of perfect obedience in this life (cf. 1 John 1:8, 10), then where is the line between the commandment-keepers and the commandment-breakers mentioned in verses 3–6?
4. What is the commandment that is both “new” and “old”? See John 13:34. In what sense was it “old” to John’s readers? In what sense was it “new”?
5. In verses 9–11 John speaks of love and hatred. Romans 12:1–12 provides more details about Christian love. How are Christians called to love each other?
6. How would you describe the tone of verses 12–14?
7. Verses 15–17 warns against the love of the world. How does the world tempt the Christian according to verse 16? Are there any worldly desires that you need to repent of?
8. Based on verses 18–29, how were the “antichrists” (v. 18) and “deceivers” (v. 26) attacking the biblical teaching concerning Christ? Why is this kind of teaching so dangerous?
9. What is “the anointing” that John refers to in verses 20 and 27? See 2 Corinthians 1:21–22. How does this “anointing” help the Christian when he or she is exposed to false teaching?

Advanced (Optional)

10. Some say that the phrase “the whole world” in verse 2 must refer to every individual without exception. In other words, some claim that Jesus died for the sins of every single person. This position is known as universal atonement.

- a. Does the word “world” always refer to “every individual without exception” in the New Testament? See John 12:19; 1 John 5:19.
- b. The universal atonement position sounds appealing at first glance. But what theological problems does it create? Think especially about how you defined the word “propitiation” in question 2.
- c. Listen to this sermon for an explanation of the Reformed view of the atonement:
<https://www.gty.org/sermons/80-356/the-atonement-real-or-potential>