*2:1-17 Progressing from Walking in the Light to Walking in Love*

1 **My little children**, these things write I to you, that ye sin not. And if any one sin, we have an **advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 2 and he is the **propitiation for our sins** 5 But whoso **keeps his word,** in him verily is the **love of God perfected**: hereby **know** we that we are in him.

Q – What is propitiation?
A – Satisfies justice we deserve by covering our sins as if never done.

8 Again, a new **commandment** I write to you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the **darkness is past, and the true light now shines.**  10 He that loves his brother **abides in the light**, and there is no occasion of stumbling in him.

*(12-14) Understand the Four Stages of Discipleship for Our Spiritual Growth*

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

13 I write to you, fathers, because ye have known him [that is] from the beginning.

 I write to you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one.

 I write to you, children, because ye have known the Father.

14 I have written to you, fathers, because ye have known him [that is] from the beginning.

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

Note: Spiritual person Stage

Little Children (vs 12) New Converts 1 Corinthians 3:1

Children (vs 13) Basic Disciples Hebrews 5:11-14

Young Men (vs 13-14, 3 qualities) Ministering Disciples Romans 6-7

Fathers (vs 13-14, the same) Disciple Makers Romans 8

Q – How do we discern where we are in the four stages of spiritual growth of Christ-likeness?
A1 – We can only understand the stages we have passed through already.
A2 – We cannot understand something we have not experienced, neither can we teach others.
A3 – The daily life of a person will give witness to their stage of spiritual growth.

*(15-17) Not Loving the World Helps Our Spiritual Growth*

##### (6) 15 Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If anyone love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passes away, and the lust thereof: but he that does the will of God abides forever.

##### Q – Can love of the world and the love of God co-exist within the believer? A1 – Yes, we can only understand the contrast as we love God more and more. As the love of God increases in the believer the love of the world diminishes. A2 – We cannot understand something we have not experienced, neither can we teach others.A3 – The daily life of a person will give witness to their love of this world or love of God. There are degrees as we spiral upward or downward. A4 – The love of the world is sin in three areas: Desires of our body and eyes, and pride. These three areas of sin are the same in Genesis, Matthew, and 1 John. This world is reflected in our culture and times, and interconnected with our old man in Adam.

*2:18-29 The Unction of the Holy Spirit Helps Our Spiritual Growth and be Confident When Jesus Returns*

7) 18 **Little children**, it is the **last time:** and as ye have heard that **antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists**; whereby we know that it is the last time. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would [no doubt] have continued with us: but [they went out], that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. 20 But **ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.**

28 And now, [little] children, **abide in him**; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

Q – How long is the antichrist around?  A – Antichrist refers to the time of John to the present that includes many antichrists, then in the future referring to the antichrist. Only John uses the title antichrist(s), 4 times in 1 John and 1 time in 2 John. See Rev 13.

Application: I must continue abiding in Christ until I die. I will have confidence and not be ashamed when Jesus Christ returns and stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ for my works. See Ephesians 5:25-27, sin is compared to spots, wrinkles, and blemishes.