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Who's in Charge?

1 John 2:1-11

Pastor Kirk Gambrell

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

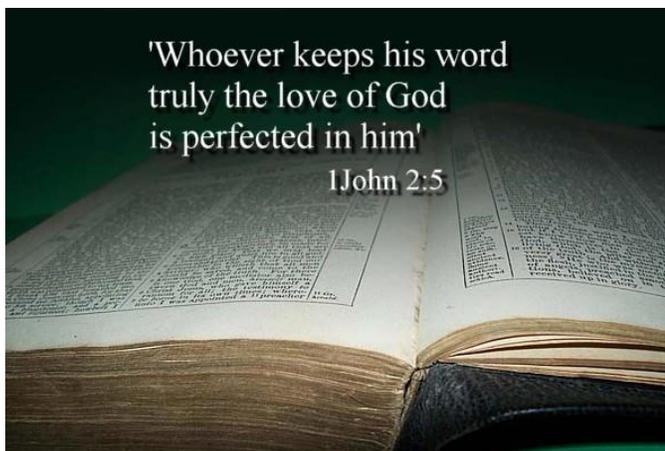
What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



The second chapter of 1 John starts off with John's purpose for writing. He writes so that we will not sin. However, we know that we have all sinned. John tells us that if we keep God's commandments we know we are in Christ. John also tells us if we say we know Him and we don't keep His commandments that we are a liar. This leaves us with a tough question. How can we, as a sinner, be a follower of Christ? First let us remember that John also told us that if we do sin we have an advocate in Jesus. Jesus has died for our sins and will advocate for us before the Father. But, we are still left with the difficulty of reconciling John's words about following Jesus with the knowledge of being a sinner. Join us this week as we talk about what it means to be a follower of Christ and how all of us sinners can have fellowship with the Father through His Son Jesus Christ.



1 John 2:1-11 (NASB)

Christ Is Our Advocate

2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ² and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of* the whole world.

³ By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; ⁵ but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: ⁶ the one who says he abides in Him ought himself

to walk in the same manner as He walked.

⁷ Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard. ⁸ On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining. ⁹ The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. ¹⁰ The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. ¹¹ But the one who 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.

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

13. We are told we must follow His commandments to show that we know Him, but no one can go without sinning. How can we reconcile these two statements?

14. Do you feel closer or further from God when you sin? Why? What does this tell us?

15. Who are we instructed to love? Who is hard to love?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

Sermon Notes