

I John 2 - NKJV

[1] My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin.

V1. Does this verse not contradict the whole of the previous chapter 1, especially 1 John 1:10 NIV

[10] If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

ie: My little children so that you may not sin then turn back a page ... if you say you're not sinning, then you and Jesus are lying. How do you reconcile those two adjacent verses?

In verse 1 of this chapter, If you follow his teachings, you won't sin (in theory) but in reality, when you inevitably drift from his teachings, and when inevitably you do sin, you have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One, Romans 8:34.

V2. NIV atoning sacrifice. NKJV propitiation.

What is a propitiation? Cambridge dictionary - the act of pleasing and making calm a god or person who is annoyed with you.

In the Old Testament, that propitiation was a sacrificial lamb, Leviticus 4:27-29, but here John compares Jesus with that lamb. The lamb covered the sins of the offerer whereas Jesus can comfortably cover everyone's sin in the whole world. In which case, why does sin still happen and why is not everyone's sin covered, resulting in everyone going to Heaven? Read carefully, Jesus was the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, but just as in Leviticus the offerer had to participate in the ceremony, so the sinner has to claim Jesus's sacrifice for him/herself by repenting and following Jesus.

V3-4. Does this encroach on justification by faith rather than works? No, it's just putting the horse before the cart. Note, John is not saying, a guy that's made a profession of faith but living a sinful, backslidden lifestyle is dammed. He's saying that such a person can't claim to know God, and if he does, he's telling pork pies, and the truth isn't within him.

V5-6. This is the reverse of V3-4. If a guy is following an obedient lifestyle, he will get to know God. If you want this verse to apply to you, then you need to live a Christlike life in what you strive to do. But let's boil it down: how can you walk as He did? How will that change what you're doing from what you used to do?

V7-8. Change of subject. Old commandment. Which one is John taking about? Matthew 22:37-40. John's reassuring you, this is nothing new, this is all Old Testament backed. But then John reminds you about Jesus's new commandment in John 13:34. This again is something that you should adopt. What does John mean, the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining? Matthew 4:16.

V9-11. Reverse side of the coin, what happens to those who don't love brothers? What do you think John has in mind when talking about not loving brothers? Examples please.

V12-14. The church is a family. John wants to encourage the family. He's talking about Christian maturity rather than number of birthdays-

Little children - sins forgiven.
Fathers - come to know Jesus.
Young men - conquered Satan.
Children - come to know God.
Fathers - come to know Jesus.
Young men - strong. God's word is within them and have conquered Satan. Do the 2 repetitions have significance?

V15-17. Do not love the world. If you do, you don't know God. What is the world? Jesus talked about two masters, Matthew 6:24.

Look at V 16. Lust of the flesh. We're pretty clear about that is, inappropriate liaisons but even the desire and fantasy is at odds with the Christian lifestyle. When John wrote his epistle, there was no such thing as porn but there was inappropriate thoughts and fantasies and porn is just that acted out, filmed and made available in digital format. This is how Jesus describes it in Matthew 5:27-28.

Lust of the eyes. Example, Abraham and Lot part company, Genesis 13:9-15. Looking with envy at the rich, and wanting a bit of that for yourself. Is the Lottery a symbol of that?

Pride of life. Pride is a word that has changed its definition over the years. We used to say that pride comes before a fall. Then pride in one's achievements was seen as positive and lately it's become associated with the gay movement. For the Christian, pride is an antonym of humility. Seeking goals and targets and bragging about achievements. Compare 250 views you get for your post, or reel, of your achievement on Facebook with the lit up beam across your face and the warm fuzzy feeling you get, knowing that what you've just done delighted your God and father, and He'll remember that forever!

V18. John's prediction has passed nearly 2000 years without coming to fruition. There was a belief amongst the early church that Jesus's return was only a few months or years away. 1 Peter 4:7. But just because it's late doesn't invalidate the prophecy. Anti-Christ's will arise and deceive many or have they already come? Jesus Himself taught about the falling away. Matthew 24:5&24. Do we think it's happening now?

V19. John reports that many of the off shoots from the church morphed into mini anti-Christ's.

They went out from us [seeming at first to be Christians], but they were not really of us [because they were not truly born again and spiritually transformed]; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out [teaching false doctrine], so that it would be clearly shown that none of them are of us. 1 John 2:19 AMP

V20-21. Through the Holy Spirit We know all things. Do you know all things? Well, you know all the important things such as truth and lies, that's a gift of the Holy Spirit.

V22-23. A basic principle. You cannot deny Jesus and at the same time know God: not possible. Anyone who says, 'I believe in God but ..' is denying irrefutable fact and so is lying. Does the same thing extend to the Holy Spirit and the Trinity? Mark 3:29.

V24. That word, abide. What we heard from the beginning. Give 2 examples of 'pulls' that drew you in or even triggered your decision to give yourself to Jesus. Hang onto those two things, don't ever forget them. Now you can abide (or live) in the Son and in the Father.

Compare and contrast with verses 1 & 2 which says if you sin you don't need to worry about God because Jesus will sort it. Now John's saying we can abide / live with Jesus and God.

V25. How long will this last?

V26. The purpose of the preceding verses is a defence against deception.

V27. Anointing is the Holy Spirit. You cannot go to a college and study the Holy Spirit, you can't acquire or buy the Holy Spirit, rather, He is a gift from God. He (the Holy Spirit) will give you wisdom that no one can teach you. He will reveal truth and lies and He will do that from inside your head, or as John puts it, abide in you.

V28. That word abide and await Christ's 2nd coming. But we've been waiting nearly 2000 years! Has this subconsciously slipped to the back of your mind? Are you trying to live righteously, knowing that Jesus can come at any minute, or has that urgency slipped?

V29. If you know and practice righteousness, you have the reassurance that you are born of Him. What does born of Him mean? John 3:3