

# ***The Johns***

## **The Epistles of John: 1 John 2**

### **-- Christianity: Do You Pass The Test? --**

#### **2:1-2**

- \* John has made it clear that NO ONE is without sin! (1:8,10)
  - > John's purpose: (v.1) SO THAT ... you will not sin!
  - > Is this an impossibility?

- \* "But if anyone does sin ..." – Why "if" instead of "when?"

Key: It's impossible to avoid EVERY sin ... but every sin is AVOIDABLE!  
(see 1 Cor. 10:12-14)

- \* Food for thought: No one is entirely without sin ... but how much sin is expected?  
Once a day? A month? A year? A lifetime?

- \* Why does John desire that we not sin? Sin Separates us From God!
  - > How is Jesus described in v. 2? The ATONING Sacrifice!
  - > "Atonement" – "AT – ONE – MENT"
  - > When our sins are atoned, we are once again "at one" with Christ

*-- Our attitude toward sinners is sometimes scornful or judgmental. While we certainly have a Biblical mandate to judge the sin, we should keep in mind that sin HURTS people. Thus, toward sinners, we should not be angry, but COMPASSIONATE – for they are only hurting themselves! (and, after all, we are all sinners, aren't we?)*

## **CHRISTIANITY: DO YOU PASS THE TEST?**

#### **2:3-6 The 1<sup>st</sup> Test: Do we OBEY HIS COMMANDS?**

- \* You can't know Jesus and ignore His commands (2:4) – (see James 2:14-26)
- \* What happens when we obey God's commands?
  - > His love is MADE COMPLETE in us! (what does this mean??)

- \* 2 Options: (1) God's love for the believer or (2) The believer's love for God  
Which one? -- It's our love for God that is made complete!  
Why? God's love is never INCOMPLETE or IMMATURE. But ours is!

\* So ... obeying God is COMPLETING YOUR LOVE!

> Ill: A husband's love for his wife.

\* v.6 restates v.3, but "obey His commands" is replaced with what phrase?

> The value of "WWJD"

## 2:7-11 The 2<sup>nd</sup> Test: Do we LOVE OTHERS?

\* The Old Command? (See Lev. 19:18; Deut. 6:5)

\* Also a New Command. (Jn. 13:33-34)

\* What is required for us to "walk in the light?" To LOVE OUR BROTHERS (see 1:7)

> Who is my brother?

> Remember, Biblically, love and hate are not primarily emotions, but attitudes expressed in our actions!

\*\*\* Interlude: An encouragement \*\*\*

Despite all of these rigorous tests, John is confident in his audience that their faith is authentic! His message: don't get fearful ... you're doing great!

## 2:15-17 The 3<sup>rd</sup> Test: Do we LOVE THE WORLD?

\* If we love the world or anything in the world, we don't love God!

> that's SCARY!

\* How have you heard this verse misused?

\* Define "world"

(1) CRAVINGS of sinful man

(2) LUST of man's eyes

(3) Boasting of man's ACCOMPLISHMENTS (stealing credit from God)

> See Daniel 4:28-33

\* So ... it's not wrong to ENJOY GOD'S CREATION! (1 Tim. 6:17)

\* Instead "world" represents those things which oppose Christ for our devotion or that lure us away from Him.

\*\* Question: Is this a hard or easy test??