

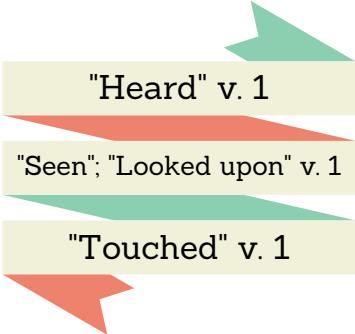
PROLOGUE: 1:1-4

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— 3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

fellowship
Greek: koinonia

Literally, "having in common." Signifies a mutual participation in a common cause or shared life. Cf. Gal. 2:9; 6:6; 1 Tim. 6:18; Titus 1:4

John's eyewitness account in 3 senses (v. 1)



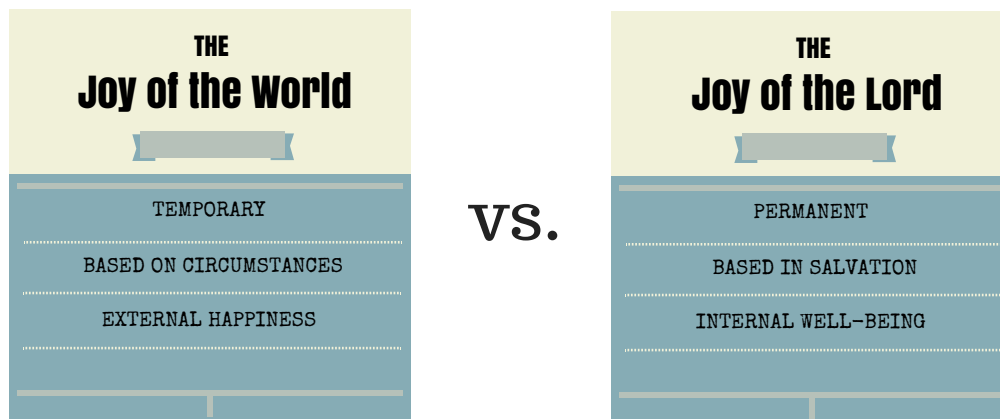
That Jesus Christ was truly the God-Man and fully human had been experienced through John's natural senses. John was a true witness of the Eternal God who entered into time.

The ministry of evangelism in two words (v. 2)



The ministry of evangelism involves both a personal witness or testimony as well as an actual proclamation of the truth of the gospel.

Two joys contrasted (v. 4)



Engaging the text

READ 1 JOHN 1:1-4.

Why do you think John uses as many sensory verbs (heard, touched, etc.) as he does?

According to v. 4, what is John's purpose for writing this letter?

How does this passage assure you that Jesus is who He says He is?

Notes on the text

Verse 1 _____

Verse 2 _____

Verse 3 _____

Verse 4 _____

Walking in the Light: 1:5-2:2

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

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

confess
Greek: homologeo

Literally, "To speak the same thing."
Hence, to agree with, assent, confess,
declare, admit.

advocate
Greek: parakletos

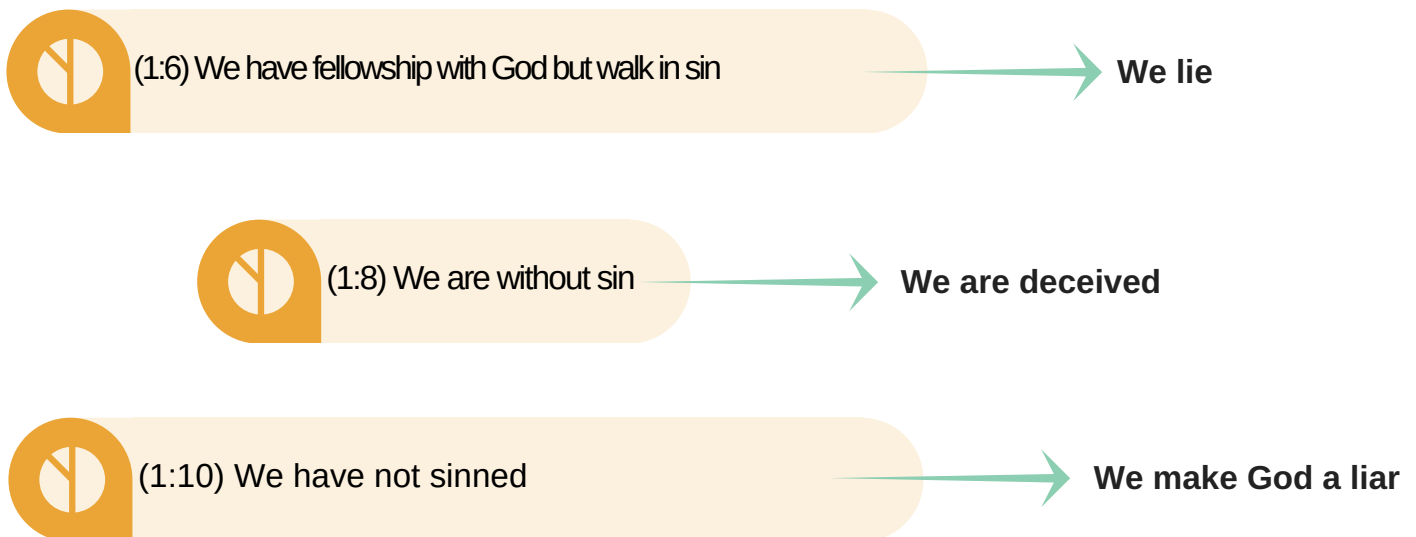
From the Latin advocatus, in turn from
the Greek parakletos. Means, "one
called alongside to help." Signifies
an advocate or "counsel of defense"
in a legal context.

The biblical metaphor of light (v. 5)

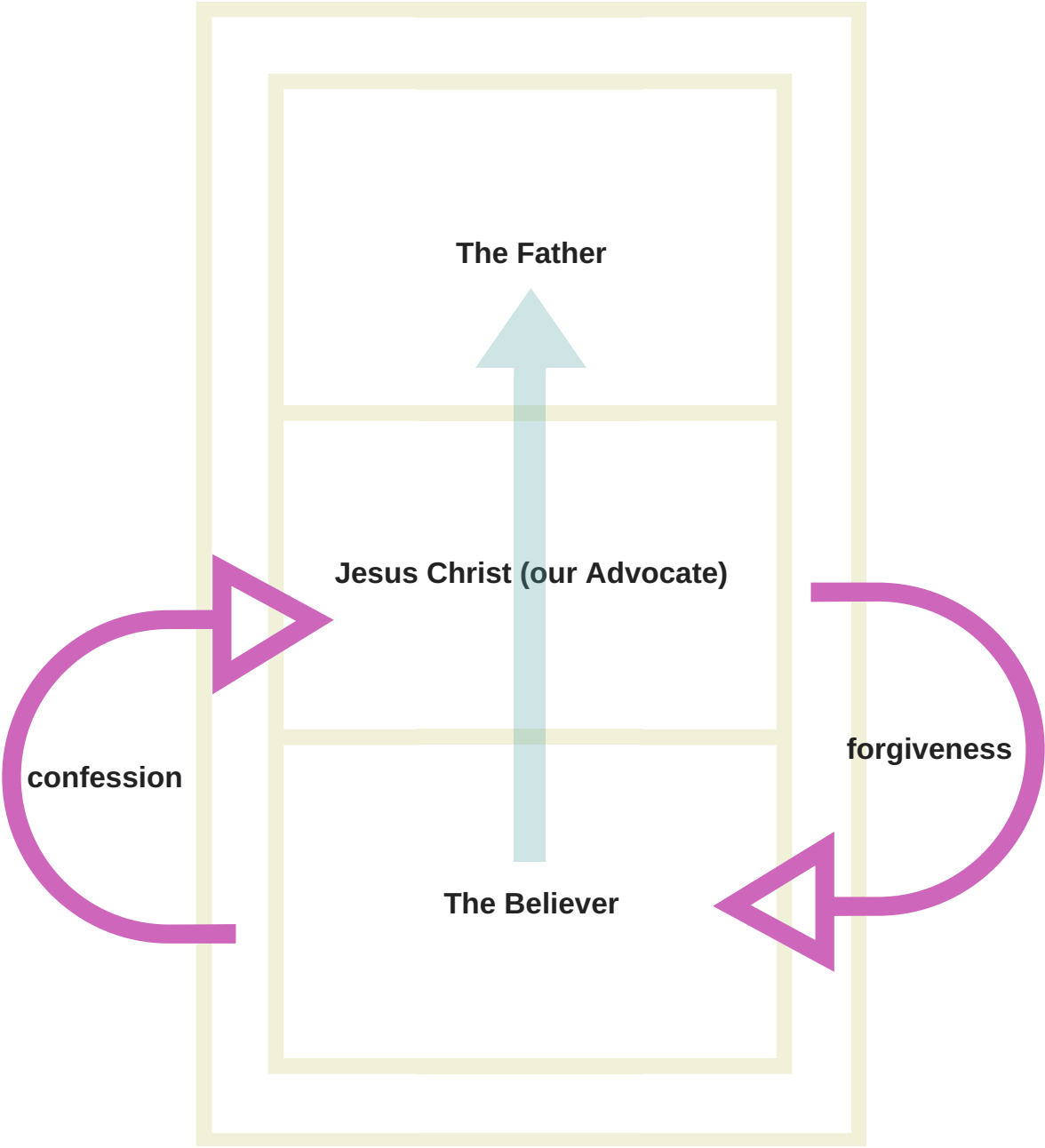
There are at least 3 ways in which this metaphor is applied to God:

- ✓ Refers to God's revelation, cf. Psalm 119:105
 - ✓ Refers to God's salvation, cf. Psalm 27:1
 - ✓ Refers to God's holiness, cf. Isaiah 5:20
- Most likely the meaning being used in v. 5

Claims of the secessionists tested (v. 6-10)



Our Advocate, Jesus Christ the Righteous (2:1-2)



Engaging the text

Read 1 John 1:5-10.

List some other Bible passages that talk about the moral purity of God.

Is v. 6 teaching the truth that Christians are sinless? Why or why not?

According to v. 7, what does fellowship with God look like in real life?

Although we may not say we have no sin in theory, in what ways do we say it in practice?

Notes on the text

Verses 5-6

Verses 7-8

Verses 9-10

Verses 1-2

Keeping His Commands: 2:3-11

3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

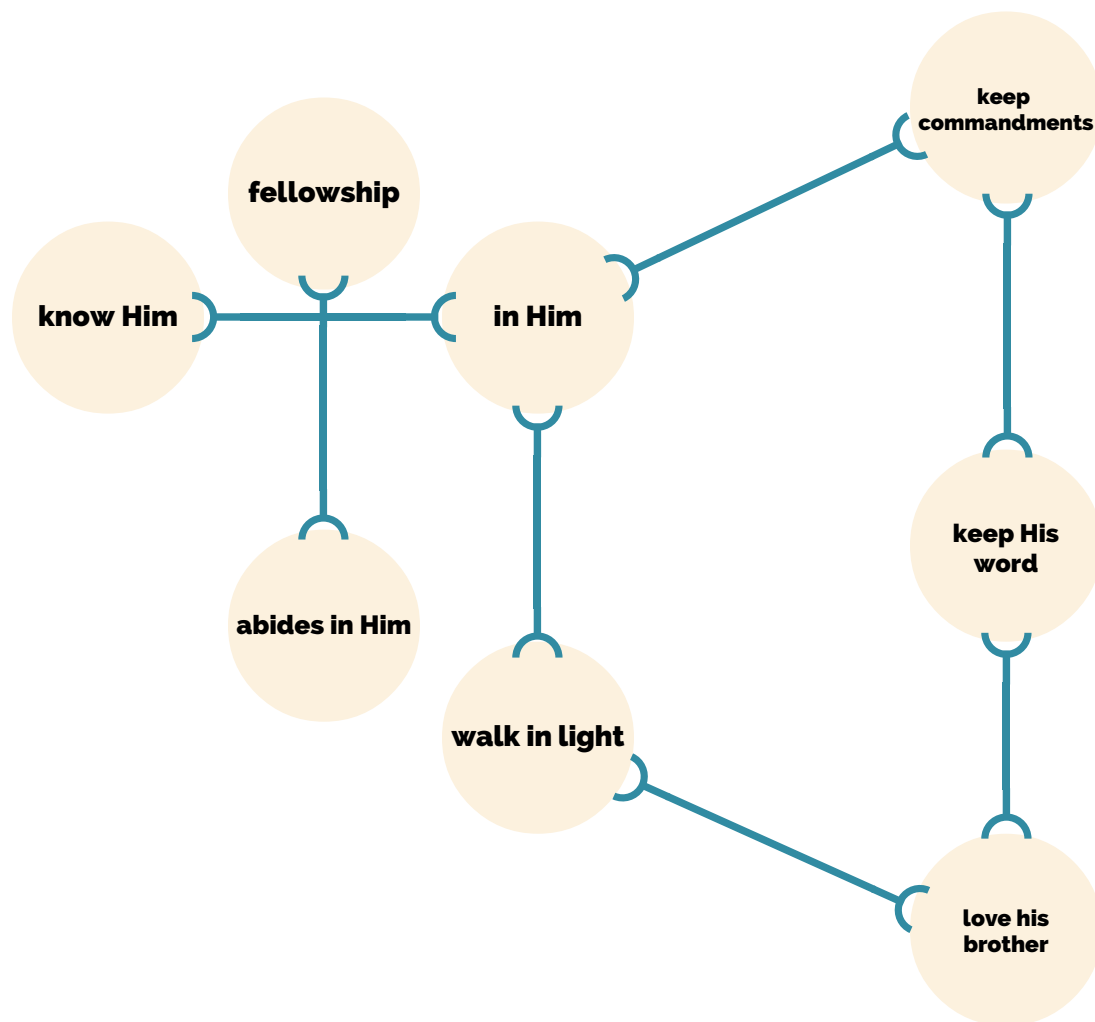
7 Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. 8 At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because[a] the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. 9 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. 10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. 11 But whoever 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.

perfected
Greek: teleioo

To consummate; reaching the “end stage”; to bring to an end; to complete;
In context, carries idea of bringing to maturity.

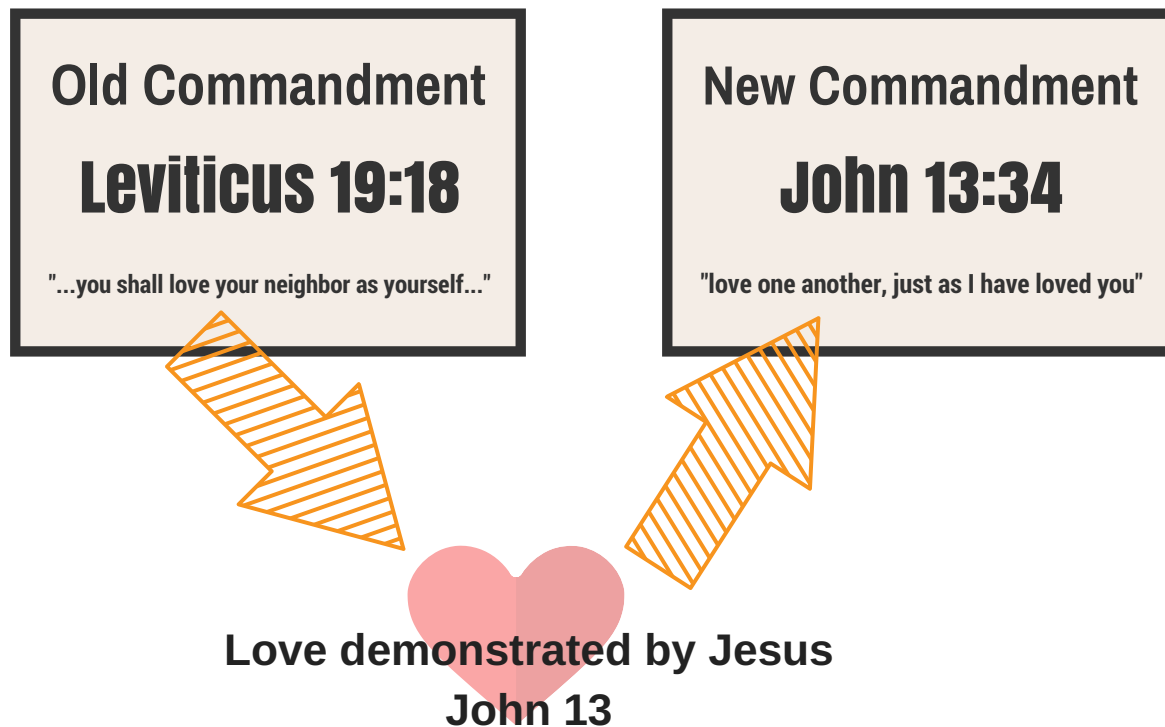
The interrelation of John's themes

When studying the first epistle of John, it is important to understand how the author goes about unpacking his various themes. Instead of developing these themes in a linear fashion, he revisits these themes several times, each time adding a different nuance. This creates an interrelation of meaning.



A new commandment and an old one (v. 7-8)

The commandment for believers to love their neighbors is not new. It is found even in the Old Testament in Leviticus 19:18. However, Jesus invested the commandment with deeper and richer meaning. In that sense, it is new.



The meaning of 'hate' in 1 John (v. 9-11)

In 1 John, hate is not an emotion. Instead, hate is the refusal to extend self-giving care to those in need.

The one who says...

I won't help

is the one who...

HATES



Engaging the text

Read 1 John 2:3-11

According to v. 4, those who don't keep God's commandments don't know God and are called liars. Sometimes Christians fail to keep God's commandments. Does that mean we don't really know God?

According to v. 5, how does a Christian become perfected in love?

How do we know that the new commandment is the command to love one another?

In the biblical sense, what does it mean to hate someone? Considering the Bible's definition, can you honestly say that you have never hated someone?

Notes on the text

Verses 3-4

Verses 5-6

Verses 7-8

Verses 9-11

**Believer's Status
and Relation to
the World: 2:12-17**

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

13 I am writing to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young men,
because you have overcome the evil one.

I write to you, children,
because you know the Father.

14 I write to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.

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

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

life (v. 16)
Greek: bios

Word means "manner of life" or
"livelihood." In context, refers to those
things that support life, i.e., possessions

Spiritual growth in the old and young (v. 12-14)

In these verses, John uses a parallel construction to address the older and younger members of the churches to which he writes. The purpose of this section is to reassure the readers of their present Christian status.

"little children"
general address

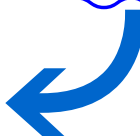
"fathers"
older members

They know Him who is from the beginning

"young men"
younger members

1. They have overcome the evil one
2. They are strong
3. The word of God abides in them

Colossians 3:16



The "world" in 1 John (v. 15-17)

When John uses the term "world," he is not referring to the physical, material universe. Instead, he means those worldly attitudes or values that are opposed to God.



system of evil



- 1. Desires of the flesh ("cravings of sinful desire")**
- 2. Desires of the eyes**
- 3. Pride of life ("pride of possessions")**

The state of our world (v. 15-17)

➔ The world is under control of the _____ (5:19)

➔ The world lies in _____. (John 1:5; 12:46)

➔ The world is _____ away. (2:17)

➔ The world is under divine _____. (John 9:39)

➔ The world is the object of divine _____. (John 3:16)

Engaging the text

Read 1 John 2:12-17

What two spiritual realities are said to be true of believers as a whole?

1. _____

2. _____

What spiritual reality characterizes most older believers in the church?

What spiritual reality characterizes the younger believers in the church?

How are the younger believers able to overcome?

Name the three characteristics present in the world:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Notes on the text

Verses 12-13

Verses 14-15

Verse 16

Verse 17

**A Warning
Against
Antichrists: 2:18-27.**

18 Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. 20 But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. 21 I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. 22 Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. 24 Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. 25 And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

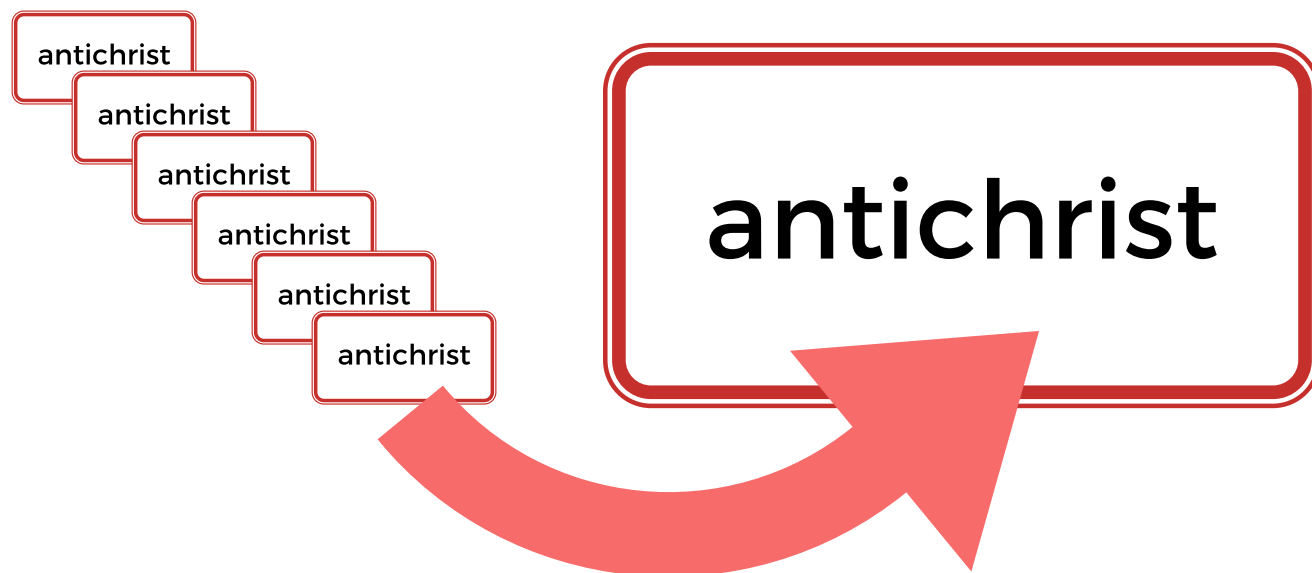
26 I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. 27 But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

anointed (v. 20)
Greek: chrisma

Anything smeared upon, unguent, ointment; in context, refers to the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit.

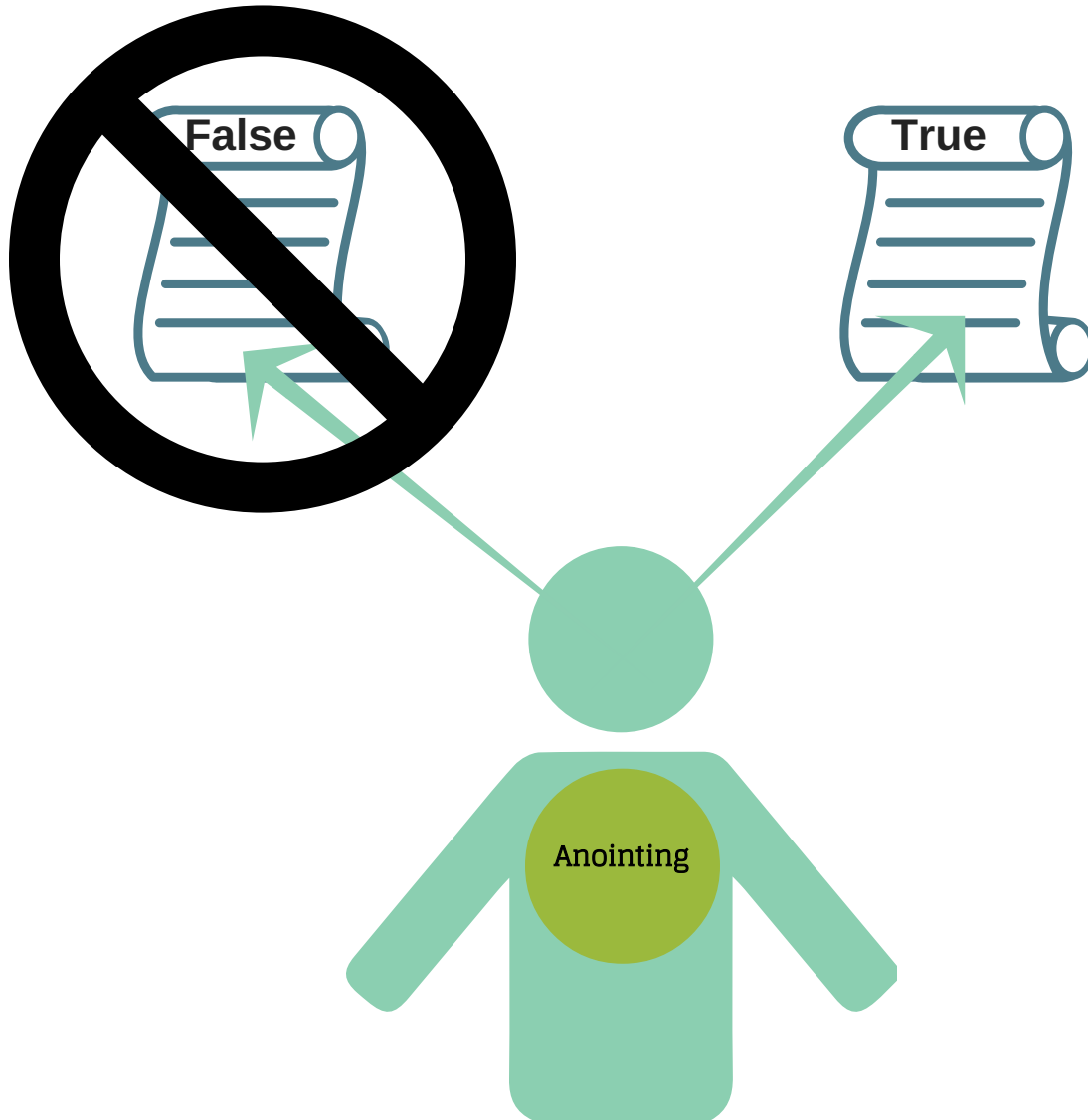
The meaning of the antichrist (v. 18-19, 22)

When John writes that "many antichrists have come," he is not denying the future revelation of the final antichrist. John means that those who deny that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, are demonstrating a spirit opposed to Christ.



The Anointing from the Holy One (v. 20, 27)

The 'anointing' is a reference to the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit leads us in discerning what is true and what is false.



Engaging the text

Read 1 John 2:18-27

Explain in what sense has antichrist already come. (v. 18)

What may be a sign that someone is not a true believer? (v. 19)

In what way does the Spirit of God guide us? (v. 20)

How should we classify those who deny that Jesus is the Christ? (v. 22)

Notes on the text

Verses 18-19

Verses 20-21

Verse 22-23

Verse 24-27

**The Hope of
God's
Children: 2:28-3:3**

28 And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. 29 If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

3 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

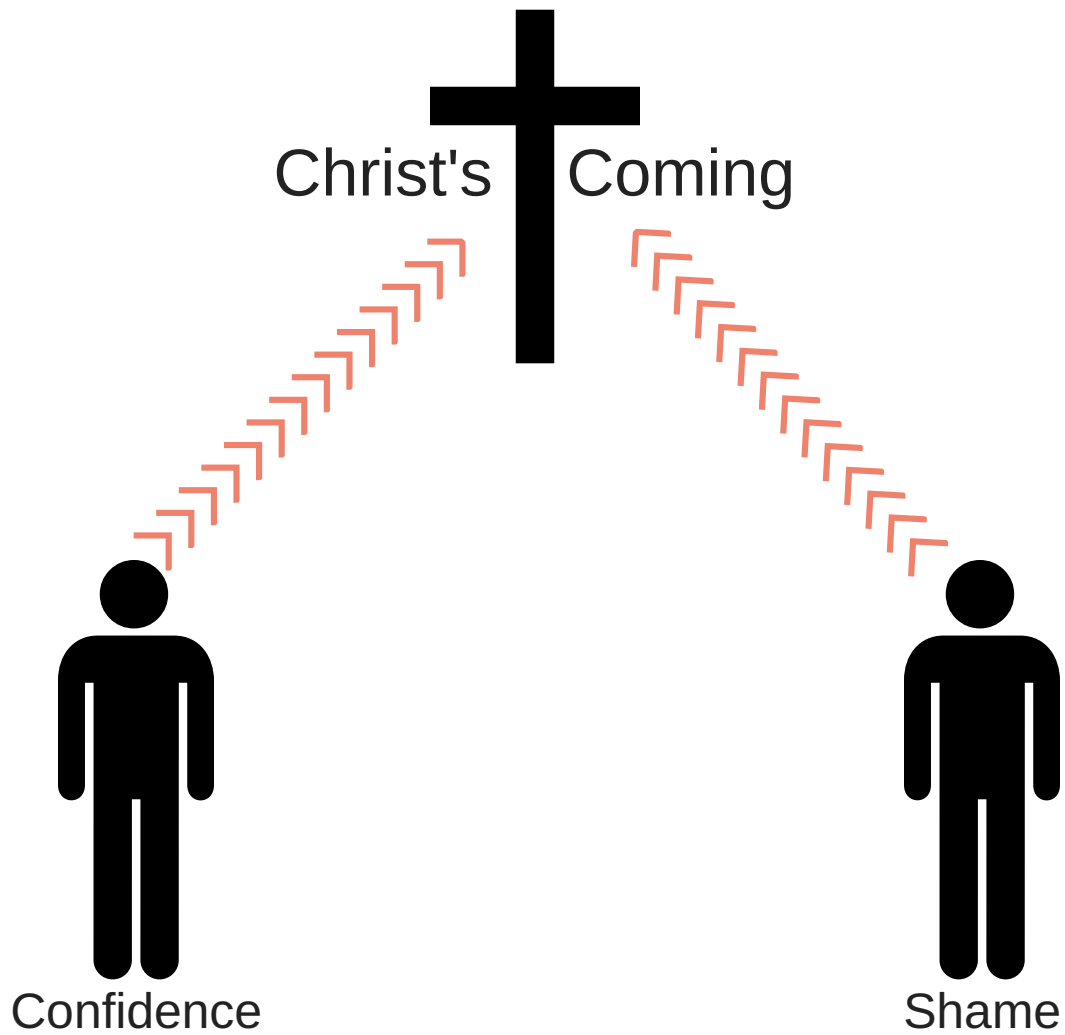
confidence (v. 28)
Greek: parrhesia

Freedom in speaking; free and fearless
confidence; cheerful courage

coming (v. 28)
Greek: parousia

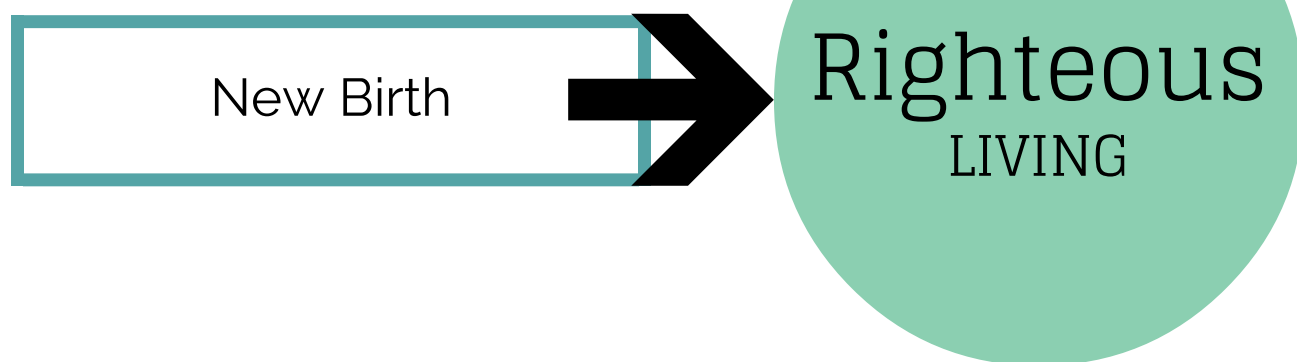
A coming; an arrival; presence; used
to refer to Jesus' Second Coming

The two responses at Christ's Coming (v. 28)



The new birth in the New Testament (v. 29)

- 1 John 3:9
- 1 John 4:7
- 1 John 5:1
- John 1:13
- John 3:3-5
- James 1:18
- 1 Peter 1:3
- 1 Peter 1:23
- 2 Peter 1:4



God's love (3:1-3)



1

We are called children of God, 3:1a

2

The world does not know us, 3:1b

3

We shall be like Him, 3:2

Engaging the text

Read 1 John 2:28-3:3

When Jesus returns, what two responses will people have? If Jesus came back today, what response would you have? (v. 28)

What evidence do we have that we have been born of God? (v. 29)

Why does God's love for us lead to the world's hatred? (3:1)

According to verse 3, what role does hope play in the Christian life?

Notes on the text

Verse 28

Verse 29

Verses 3:1-2

Verse 3
