

Wise Words for the Family of God



Read

Before you read today's passage, close your eyes, take a few deep breaths, and focus on quieting your heart. Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you through His Word. Slowly read through the passage and consider what this means to you. Are there any words, phrases, or repetition that stand out?



Think

At first glance, it may seem that these verses are talking about sins and the acts that we need to obey. But if we shift our focus in this passage to God, we see that it talks about the relationship between us and Jesus, and what stems from it. It is not meant to scare us or force us into doing what He says, but rather points to what happens when we truly know Jesus, with a strong emphasis on love.

"Jesus Christ, the Righteous One" (v.1b) is described as our Advocate with the Father so that we can all come before Him. We can do whatever we want if we truly know Him and love Him because His Spirit would convict us of things that cause Him to grieve. These things He has revealed to us in His commands. He will become so integrated in our lives that it would be impossible to do otherwise. As our relationship with Jesus changes, so does our relationship with sin. By knowing Jesus, we should be able to reflect on His light versus our innate darkness. His light would live in us so that it extends to other parts of our lives, leading to us to love our brothers and sisters. These actions are outward expressions of the true condition of our heart as evidence of our relationship with Christ. So if we don't love one another, what does that reflect? Do we really understand what He commands?



Pray

Spend some time meditating on what had stood out to you in the passage, and respond to it. You can also ask the Lord to reveal more of Himself to you so that you can get to know Him more and to love His people more so that you can see His light and no longer be blinded by the darkness. It is important to spend some time in silence, to listen attentively to what He says to you.



Live

Reflect on your relationship with Christ. Examine whether you recognize your own darkness, and in contrast, His light. Are you able to extend your love for God to your brothers and sisters so that "love for God is truly made complete"? Are there any excuses that we've had for not loving brothers or sisters? Are there any relationships in your life that need to be reconciled? What does "loving God" and "loving others" really mean? What are some tangible ways to do so?



RHCCC
1-3 John
Devotional Series

1 John 2:1-11

¹My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ²He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

³We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. ⁴Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. ⁵But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

⁷Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. ⁸Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

⁹Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. ¹⁰Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. ¹¹But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.