

Can We Excuse Our Worldliness?

Study Outline – Grace Bible Chapel
1st John Study - emphasis on 1st John 2:12-15
Sunday – May 4th, 2025

CONTEXT: The section is challenging and insightful. John continues his purposeful letter designed for self-evaluation as to whether our faith is real according to Scripture. By context he just completed a focus on love, and now he briefly discusses the levels of maturity for those saved and does so to make the point that regardless of where we are on a scale of spiritual maturity, if in Christ, we will overcome and not love the system of the fallen world. To love the world means to love the dominate system of evil. Satan has been temporarily given preeminence over the minds and hearts of all in the human race under Adam. All, yet in Adam, love the fallen world of sin. By contrast, we in Christ are commanded not to love the world. Our ability to be submissive to this command becomes a means of demonstrating whether we are truly born again, having possession of salvation, or are yet held captive in sin. This is a very important and sobering portion of John's important letter written to provide assurance.

Broad outline of the book of 1st John (underlined portion is the immediate context)

- I. The Reality of the Person of Christ (1:1-4)
- II. The Reality of Fellowship with Christ (1:5-2:29)
 - A. The Conditions for Fellowship (1st John 1:5-2:14)
 - 1. Walking in the Light (1:5-7)
 - 2. Walking by confession (1:8-2:2)
 - 3. Walking in Obedience (2:3-6)
 - 4. Walking in love (2:7-11)
 - 5. Walking away from evil (2:12-17)

Key Words & Phrases

- I am writing to you
- forgiven
- know Him
- know the Father
- overcome
- strong
- Word of God abides in you
- Do not love the world

Introduction:

a. Who we are (2:12-14)

○ Fathers (2:13a)

○ Babies (2:13b)

○ Young Men (2:14)

b. Where we are (2:15a)

c. What we are to be (2:15b)

Closing:
