

How to Live in a pagan Culture WALKING IN THE LIGHT 3

12-13 I remind you, my dear children: Your sins are forgiven in Jesus' name. You veterans were in on the ground floor, and know the One who started all this; you newcomers have won a big victory over the Evil One. 13-14 And a second reminder, dear children: You know the Father from personal experience. You veterans know the One who started it all; and you newcomers—such vitality and strength! God's word is so steady in you. Your fellowship with God enables you to gain a victory over the Evil One. 15-17 Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father. Practically everything that goes on in the world—wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important—has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him. The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out—but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity. 18 Children, time is just about up. You heard that Antichrist is coming. Well, they're all over the place, antichrists everywhere you look. That's how we know that we're close to the end. 19 They left us, but they were never really with us. If they had been, they would have stuck it out with us, loyal to the end. In leaving, they showed their true colors, showed they never did belong. 20-21 But you belong. The Holy One anointed you, and you all know it. I haven't been writing this to tell you something you don't know, but to confirm the truth you do know, and to remind you that the truth doesn't breed lies. 22-23 So who is lying here? It's the person who denies that Jesus is the Divine Christ, that's who. This is what makes an antichrist: denying the Father, denying the Son. No one who denies the Son has any part with the Father, but affirming the Son is an embrace of the Father as well. 24-25 Stay with what you heard from the beginning, the original message. Let it sink into your life. If what you heard from the beginning lives deeply in you, you will live deeply in both Son and Father. This is exactly what Christ promised: eternal life, real life! 26-27 I've written to warn you about those who are trying to deceive you. But they're no match for what is embedded deeply within you—Christ's anointing, no less! You don't need any of their so-called teaching. Christ's anointing teaches you the truth on everything you need to know about yourself and him, uncontaminated by a single lie. Live deeply in what you were taught. 1John 2:12-27 THE MESSAGE

I. WE MUST BE _____ v.12-14

Here the elderly John writes to people of different ages. But understand here he is talking about different spiritual ages or

maturity levels. Note the word he uses describes where they are at spiritually.

II. WE MUST BE _____ v. 15-17.

John just spent a lot of time telling them that they must love each other. He even said that if they didn't they didn't know God. He said that they were walking in darkness and not the light if they didn't love each other. That real love was a sign of being a follower of Jesus. But here he tells them not to love the world or anything in the world. What does he mean? He is not talking about the physical world. He is not talking about the people of the world. He is talking about the world system that is against God. A system that makes itself God. This system is temporary and will pass away. The one who does God's will lives forever. So focus on doing things that will really make a difference not only in this world but also in the next.

III. WE MUST BE _____ v. 18-27

John is warning them about false teachers in the world. Many of them came out of the church. Remember the Gnostic teachers who said they were Christians? John said they really were not a part of us or they would not have gone out from us. They speak out against Christ. John tells them that they (the believers that he is writing to) have the Holy Spirit in them that confirms the truth of God and that they don't need to worry about these so called teachers. In other words don't pay attention to those who say they are "one up on you" in their walk. You have the Holy Spirit of God in you and you know how to live and what to believe.

So we can run and hide from the things going on in the world or we can see the day we live in as an opportunity to share the love of Jesus with a world that so desperately needs Him.