

WITH THE MASTER BEFORE THE MIRROR OF GOD'S WORD

Session 1 — Before the Mirror of God's Word Results in a Proper Attitude Towards Sin


1 John 1:8-2:2

A. Two Attitudes Towards Sin

1. Wrong Attitude-verses 8 and 10
2. Right Attitude-verse 9 and 2:1, 2

Questions to Consider — Session 1

1 John 1:8-2:2 — What is Your Attitude Towards Sin?

1. Read 1 John 1:1-2:2.
 - a. What things does John say in this passage that is similar to one another? (Repeated themes or words)
 - b. Why do you think he repeats himself?
 - c. What do you think it means “to deceive ourselves” as it says in verse 8?
2. Memorize 1 John 2:1
3. John says, “If we say that we have no sin, *we deceive ourselves*.” (1:8).
 - a. List the other things that we can be deceived about according to the following verses: Matthew 24:1-13; 1 Corinthians 3:18-23; 1 Corinthians 6:9,10; 1 Corinthians 15:33; Galatians 6:3,7,8; James 1:22; James 1:26
 - b. Looking back at these verses in their context, what is the remedy for self-deception?
4. QUESTION:
 - a. How could you use the following verses to confront the error of those who say that they have no sin? Ecclesiastes 7:20; Isaiah 53:6; 64:6; Romans 3:10-23.
 - b. What is the solution to the error of their way? See Psalm 32:5.
5. QUESTION:
 - a. What role does Jesus Christ our Advocate and the Holy Spirit our Advocate play? See John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Romans 8: 26; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 4:14-16.
 - b. How do these verses encourage you as you walk through this life?

6. QUESTION:
 - a. What does Proverbs 28:13 say?
 - b. Are you in the habit of confessing your sins before God and others?

7. QUESTION:
 - a. Take some time this week to read and pray through Psalms 6, 32, 38, and 51. These are Penitential Psalms (Psalms of Repentance).
 - b. Do your attitudes towards sin match those of the Psalmist?

8. QUESTION:
 - a. Do you justify your sin or blame others for your sin?
 - b. After studying this passage, what do you believe the proper attitude towards sin should be?
 - c. What changes will you now make?

9. What sin(s) in your life need to be eradicated? Come with a prayer request addressed to your Advocate, Jesus Christ the Righteous One!

WITH THE MASTER BEFORE THE MIRROR OF GOD'S WORD

Session 2 — Before the Mirror of God's Word Results in Love of the Brethren

1 John 2:7-11

1. The Nature of the Old Commandment—verse 7
2. The Nature of the New Commandment—verse 8
3. The Nature of Those who Hate their Brother—Verses 9 & 11
4. The Nature of Those who Love their Brother—Verse 10

Questions to Consider — Session 2

1 John 2:7-11 — Do You Love Your Brother?

1. In 1 John 2:7, 8, John mentions an old commandment that they had heard from the beginning.
 - a. Read Leviticus 19:18 to discover what this old commandment was.
 - b. So then, what does John mean in verse 8 by a new commandment? See John 13:34.
 - c. What makes this commandment different from the old commandment?
 - d. Do you think verses 7 and 8 are contradictory?
 - e. Why or why not?
2. QUESTION:
 - a. According to 1 John 2:9, 10, how does one know for sure if he is a believer?
 - b. How does John describe loving one's brother later on in this epistle? See 1 John 3:17, 18.
 - c. List some ways that we can "measure up" to John's description of loving our brother.
3. Read Matthew 25:31-46 and answer the following questions
 - a. What animals does Jesus use to describe those who love the brethren and those who hate the brethren?
 - b. Why do you think He uses these different animals?
 - c. What deeds characterize those who love the brethren and those who hate the brethren?
 - d. What are the destinations of those who love the brethren and of those who hate the brethren?
 - e. Do you think the goats knew they were lost? Why or why not?
4. QUESTION:

- a. Why is loving the brethren so imperative? See John 13:35; Romans 13:8; 1 Corinthians 13, and 1 John 4:11.
 - b. Rewrite the qualities of love from 1 Corinthians in your own words.
 - c. What changes do you need to make so that you will love others in the way described in 1 Corinthians 13?
5. QUESTION:
 - a. Do you love the brethren?
 - b. What proof is there in your life that you love the brethren? (For the brave, ask those closest to you, “Does my life manifest that I indeed love the brethren?”)
6. QUESTION:
 - a. Is there someone you need to love more actively?
 - b. What will you do about it?
7. In what areas has the Lord convicted you? Write out a prayer request to share.

WITH THE MASTER BEFORE THE MIRROR OF GOD'S WORD

Session 3 — Before the Mirror of God's Word Results in Hating the World

1 John 2:15-17 — Three Deadly Sins

1. Command to not Love the World — verses 15a
2. Reasons to not Love the World — verses 15b, 17, 17a
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.
3. Reason to Love God — verse 17b

**Questions to Consider — Session 3
Three Deadly Sins! 1 John 2:15-17**

1. Read 1 John 2:15-17.
 - a. What is the main command in these verses?
 - b. Why do you think John transitions into this subject after verses 12-14?
2. QUESTION:
 - a. Read the accounts in Genesis 3:1-6 and Matthew 4:1-11, and note the ways in which Eve and the Lord were both tempted by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.
 - b. How did Christ withstand the temptation?
 - c. Why did Eve not withstand the temptation?
 - d. What do you learn from both examples?
3. QUESTION:
 - a. How does James describe worldliness in James chapter 4?
 - b. What words does James use to describe those who love the world?
 - c. What is the remedy for worldliness according to James?
4. QUESTION:
 - a. What does John 3:16 say?
 - b. What does 1 John 2:15 say? How do you reconcile these verses?

5. QUESTION:
 - a. Why is it imperative according to 1 John that believers not love the world? 1 John 2:16-17; 1 John 5:19.
 - b. What other passages come to mind that warn us of the dangers of loving the world?
6. QUESTION:
 - a. What did Jesus pray in John 17:11, 14-15?
 - b. How can a believer be in the world but not of the world? Support your answer with Scripture.
7. QUESTION:
 - a. What do *you* think worldliness is?
 - b. What are some common forms of worldliness?
 - c. What are some forms of worldliness that you personally are drawn to?
 - d. How do you resist those temptations?
8. QUESTION:
 - a. Honestly evaluate your life in light of the following questions.
 - b. Am I in love with this world?
 - c. How am I enticed by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or the pride of life? (For example: Do I concentrate on satisfying the lusts of my flesh? What attracts the attention of my eyes? Am I proud about my accomplishments or myself?)
 - d. Am I doing the will of the Father?
9. Please write down a prayer request after contemplating question 8.

WITH THE MASTER BEFORE THE MIRROR OF GOD'S WORD

Session 4 — With the Master Before the Mirror of God's Word Results in Discerning Truth from Error

1 John 4:1-6

Discerning Truth from Error—1 John 4:1-6

1. Our Responsibility to Discern False Teacher—verse 1
2. Our Method for Discerning False Teachers—verses 2, 3
3. Our Promise to Overcome False Teachers—verse 4
4. Our Vast Differences with False Teachers—verses 5, 6.

**Questions to Consider — Session 4
Discerning Truth from Error — 1 John 4:1-6**

1. QUESTION:
 - a. What are the differences between those who are false and those who are true, according to 1 John 4:1-6?
 - b. Who is behind false prophets, antichrists, and those who teach error? (c) What test does John give us in this passage that helps us to discern false teachers?
2. John gives us some ways to test false prophets in 1 John 4:1-6. However, there are other ways to discern false prophets. What are they, according to the following passages? Deuteronomy 13:1-5; Deuteronomy 18:20-22; Isaiah 8:19, 20; Matthew 7:15-23; Galatians 1:8; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Peter 2; Jude 4, 8, 10, 16.
3. QUESTION:
 - a. Do you think all believers can discern false teachers? See Matthew 24:24; John 16:13; 1 John 4:6.
 - b. How should Christians respond to false teachers? See Deuteronomy 13:1-5; Titus 3:10, 11; 2 John 7-11.
 - c. Why should we respond that way? (Answer this question according to the preceding passages.)
4. QUESTION:
 - a. What is going to happen to false teachers? See 2 Peter 2:1, 12, 13, 17; Jude 11-15.
 - b. How can you encourage or exhort those who are engrossed in error?
5. How does 1 John 4:4 give you comfort?

6. QUESTION:

- a. Do you think you can discern false prophets?
- b. How can you be more discerning after this lesson?
- c. Who are some of the false teachers and/or some of the false religions in our day, and how did you discern that? Do you know anyone who has been swept away by false teaching and/or false teachers? How might we pray for them? Please write your burden down in the form of a prayer request.

WITH THE MASTER BEFORE THE MIRROR OF GOD'S WORD

Session 5 — With the Master Before the Mirror of God's Word Results in Understanding the Depth of the Father's Love! How Deep The Father's Love for US!

1 John 4:7-12

Two-fold reason why we should love others.

1. We love others, because love is the nature of God. (Verses 7-10)
2. We love others because God loves us. (Verses 11, 12)

Questions to Consider — Session 5

1 John 4:7-12 — How Deep The Father's Love For Us!

1. Read 1 John 4:7-12.
 - a. How many times does John mention the word *love* or some form of the word?
 - b. What are the different ways that John uses the word, *love*?
 - c. What other word do you notice that John repeats several times?
2. Memorize 1 John 4:10.
3. John says that God showed His love by sending His son to die for us.
 - a. Choose **one** of the gospel accounts of the death of Christ and summarize in your own words what Christ endured on your behalf. (Matthew 26 and 27; Mark 14 and 15; Luke 22 and 23 **or** John 18 and 19.)
 - b. Do you love others to that extent?
 - c. How can you sacrificially love others?
 - d. What do you think John means in 1 John 4:11?
4. QUESTION:
 - a. According to 1 John 4:10, who loved first, God or us?
 - b. According to Romans 5:7-9, was there anything in us that solicited that love from God?
 - c. How does Paul describe our sinful condition in Romans 3:9-18?
 - d. How does this passage in Romans help you to understand the depth of God's love for you?
 - e. What is the promise (regarding the love of God) to those whom Christ has saved, according to Romans 8:31-39?



- f. What is your response to God as you consider your salvation?
5. QUESTION:
- a. Why has no man seen God at any time? See John 1:18, John 4:24, John 6:46 and 1 Timothy 1:17.
 - b. With those passages in mind, how do you explain Genesis 32:24-30 (especially verse 30)?
 - c. How does one see God, according to what Jesus said to Philip in John 14:7-12?
6. QUESTION:
- a. How have you grown in your love toward others?
 - b. In what ways does the love of God motivate you to love others?
 - c. In what ways do you think the church could improve in loving others?
 - d. How can you be a part of that improvement?
 - e. What will you do about it?
7. Write out your testimony of how God saved you. Especially bring out the aspects of God's love that you saw as He drew you to Himself.
8. What does God's love mean to you personally? Write a praise of thanksgiving to God, writing down your thoughts to Him.

WITH THE MASTER BEFORE THE MIRROR OF GOD'S WORD

Session 6—With the Master Before the Mirror of God's Word Results in Being Certain Where You will Spend Eternity

Three Absolutes — 1 John 5:13-15

1. Absolute Number One — verse 13
2. Absolute Number Two — verses 14, 15
3. Absolute Number Three — verse 15

Questions to Consider — Session 6
1 John 5:13-15 — Three Absolutes

1. QUESTIONS:
 - a. According to 1 John 5:13-15, what three things can we be certain about?
 - b. Are you certain about these things?
2. John says in 1 John 5:13 that we can know we have eternal life.
 - a. What evidences has John given so far in 1 John whereby we can know for sure that we are children of God?
 - b. What are some other ways we can know for certain that we are born of God, according to Romans 8:15-17, Galatians 4:6 and 2 Peter 1:4-11?
3. John indicates, in 1 John 5:14 and 15, that we can be assured that God answers prayer.
 - a. According to the following passages, what might be some of the reasons that God does not answer prayer? Proverbs 21:13; Proverbs 28:9; John 9:31; John 14:13; John 15:7; James 1:5, 6; 4:1-3; 1 Peter 3:7; 1 John 3:21, 22.
 - b. What changes do you need to make, in light of these passages, in order for God to hear and answer your prayers?
4. Read at least *two* of the prayers from the following passages: 1 Samuel 1 and 2; 1 Kings 8:22-53; 2 Chronicles 20; Nehemiah 9; Daniel 9:3-19; Matthew 6:9-13; Ephesians 1:15-21; Ephesians 3:14-21; Philippians 1:9-11 and Colossians 1:9-14.
 - a. How do these prayers compare with the way we pray today?

- b. In what way(s) do you think your own personal prayers need to change after looking over these prayers?
- 5. From *one* of the above prayers, answer the following questions:
 - a. What petitions were made?
 - b. Were they granted?
 - c. What principles will you apply to your own prayer life?
- 6. QUESTION:
 - a. Write down at least 10 things you are asking the Lord for.
 - b. How has the Lord answered these requests? (If He hasn't answered yet, keep this list so that you can record later how and when He has answered them.)
- 7. QUESTION:
 - a. Do you know for sure that you are a Christian?
 - b. What assurance do you have?
 - c. Do you know for sure that God hears your prayers?
 - d. How do you know that? Does He answer your prayers?
 - e. What is at least one prayer He has answered this week?
- 8. What do you desire from God? Write it down in a prayer to Him to share.