

**Lesson 3**  
**1 John 2:12 – 29**  
**The Love God hates and its consequences**

**Memory verse:** “Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.” (John 7:17 NIV).

A group of first graders had just completed a tour of a hospital, and the nurse who had directed them was asking for questions. Immediately a hand went up.

“How come the people who work here are always washing their hands?” a little fellow asked. After the laughter had subsided, the nurse gave a wise answer: “They are ‘always washing their hands’ for two reasons. First, they love health; and second, they hate germs.”

In more than one area of life, love and hate go hand in hand. A husband who loves his wife is certainly going to exercise a hatred for what would harm her. “Ye that love the Lord, hate evil” (Ps. 97:10). “Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good” (Rom. 12:9 NASB).

John’s epistle has reminded us to exercise love (1 John 2:7–11) - the right kind of love. Now it warns us that there is a wrong kind of love, a love that God hates. This is love for what the Bible calls “the world.”

It makes no difference what you believe, just as long as you are sincere!”

That statement expresses the personal philosophy of many people today, but it is doubtful whether most of those who make it have really thought it through. Is “sincerity” the magic ingredient that makes something true? If so, then you ought to be able to apply it to any area of life, and not only to religion.

A nurse in a city hospital gives some medicine to a patient, and the patient becomes violently ill. The nurse is sincere but the medicine is wrong, and the patient almost dies.

A man hears noises in the house one night and decides a burglar is at work. He gets his gun and shoots the “burglar,” who turns out to be his daughter! Unable to sleep, she has gotten up for a bite to eat. She ends up the victim of her father’s “sincerity.”

It takes more than “sincerity” to make something true. Faith in a lie will always cause serious consequences; faith in the truth is never misplaced. It does make a difference what a man believes! If a man wants to drive from Melbourne to Sydney, no amount of sincerity will get him there if the highway is taking him to Perth. A person who is real builds his life on truth, not superstition or lies. It is impossible to live a real life by believing lies.

God has warned the church family (“little children”) about the conflict between light and darkness (1 John 1:1 - 2:6) and between love and hatred (1 John 2:7-17). Now He warns them about a third conflict: the conflict between truth and error. It is not enough for a believer to walk in the light and to walk in love; he must also walk in truth. The issue is truth - or consequences!

A Christian must decide, “Will I live for the present only, or will I live for the will of God and abide forever?” “Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!” (2 Cor. 13:5 NASB). Does your life bear the marks of obedience, love, and truth? Is your Christian life something real – genuine - authentic? Or is it counterfeit? It is a question of truth - or consequences!

Things to learn: 1) Understanding “the World” 2) Love not “the World” 3) Discern Truth and Error.

**Discussion Questions:**

1) What is meant by “the world” in the Bible? (10 mins)

2) In 1 John 2:12 to 17, Christians are told not to love “the world”. Why? (15 mins)

3) Does it make any difference in what you believe when the “spirit of antichrist” prevails in the world (use verses 18 to 29 to assist)? (20 mins.)