

Eight Relational Commands of I John



**Building relationships to the
glory of God!**

Introduction



- **Functions and times of commands**
- **Military teaches importance of obeying commands**
- **God's commands are rooted in His love—like a parent**
- **These 8 commands are central to a Christian life lived fruitfully and well!**

Let us not love (2:15 & 3:18)



- Things we are not to love—world nor things in the world
- Threefold definition of how the world captures our desires and entices us
- Not in word or speech, but in deed and truth—let your life match your words!

Abide/remain in him (2:24, 26, 28)



- Let what you heard from the beginning
- Just as his anointing has taught you
- Little children...so that when he appears you may have confidence

love the Father has given us! (3:1)



- **See, behold, take a close look...we talked about this last week**
- **Comprehending this love is the basis of our identity!**
- **Why world does not know us**

Let no one deceive you (3:7)



- **Doing right is a key indicator**
- **This is because Jesus is righteous**
- **1 John 1:8—problem of self-deception**
- **1 John 2:26—others trying to deceive you**

Do not be

surprised (3:13)



- **Why does the world hate us?**
- ***“With respect to this they are surprised (1 Peter 4:4).***
- **1 Thess 5:4—But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.**
- **1 Peter 4:2 *“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial***
- **Nothing should surprise us or catch us off guard**

Do not believe every spirit (4:1)



- **“Beloved”**—he addresses his readers 6 times in this letter this way! Genuine love portrayed between John and his audience!
- **Charlatans in the name of “religion”**
- **Be quick to investigate—do not believe everything you hear in the name of religion**

Test the spirits (4:1)



- Embodiment of “false prophets.”
- Old Testament background of false prophets
- Many false prophets—
fundamental problem in John’s
day—false prophets denied that
Jesus came in the flesh
- “Test” (examine, prove)—
- What is the fruit?

Keep yourselves from idols (5:21)



- **Stands opposite of 3 “True-s” in I John 5:20!**
- **Idol today is anything that captures my heart of trust, worship, and worldview that replaces God.**
- **“A final warning.”**
- **Well known objects of false devotion! What are they for us?!**

8 relational commands



- **Let us not love (2:15 & 3:18)**
- **Abide/remain in him (2:24, 26, 28)**
- **See What manner of love the Father has given us! (3:1)**
- **Let no one deceive you (3:7)**

8 relational commands



- **Do not be amazed/surprised that the world hates you (3:13)**
- **Do not believe every spirit (4:1)**
- **Test the spirits (4:1)**
- **Keep yourselves from idols (5:21)**