



April 19, 2026
Series: Week 2
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“Marks of Maturity” – 1 John 2:7-27

Today we will continue in taking a series of tests that can help us to evaluate our spiritual maturity, and offer opportunities for growth.

Test 1: Growing in Love for One Another (1 John 2:7-11)

-John gives a new/old command...

-It's old because this has been around since the first giving of the Law. (Leviticus 19:18)

-It is new because Jesus expressed Love in its fullness through His surrendered life.

Consider:

- 1.) Do you aspire to love your brothers and sisters like Jesus would? (7-8)
- 2.) Do your actions cause others to stumble in the darkness, or to walk in the light? (9-11)
- 3.) When comparing the list of “agape” love traits found in 1 Cor. 13:4-8, how many are regularly true of you?
- 4.) If those in close proximity to you were surveyed to rank your love, what do you think they would say?

Test 2: Growing in Gospel Confidence (1 John 2:12-14)

-John makes it clear that we are continually growing in our understanding of the Gospel message, of who our God is and what He has done for us. (God's Children, young in the faith, mature in the faith)

-Every season of our life is a new experience for us to know, live, and share the truth in unique and different ways.

Consider:

- 1.) Do you know who Jesus is?
-He is the eternally existing God. He is the Savior that breaks the power of sin. (13a, 14a, 14b)
- 2.) Do you know what He has given to you?
-Forgiveness, adoption, victory, spiritual strength (12, 13b, 14c)
- 3.) How confident would you be to express the Gospel message to someone else?

Test 3: Growing in Practiced Discipline (1 John 2:15-17)

“The World” (kosmos) –

-The natural world, and the whole human race, beloved by God.

-Human systems that are opposed to the Light of God, His Truth and Way of life.

-John uses this term in similar ways as the “darkness.”

The primary entry points for the ways of “the world” to affect a believer's life:

“...Craving for physical pleasure, for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions.” (16)

Consider:

- 1.) Are you aware of the key areas in which you are most easily tempted? Have you sought help in gaining strength for this fight?
- 2.) Is your life producing more Fruit of the Spirit, and less fruit of the flesh (Galatians 5) today, than one year ago?
- 3.) How easily can you differentiate the temporal promises of the world from the eternal promises of God?
What would some of them be?
- 4.) What practices have you put into your life in order to emphasize your love for God over your love of the world?
(Can be “subtraction” practices or “addition” practices)

Test 4: Growing in Spirit-led Discernment (1 John 2:18-27)

-John's primary concern is not to warn about the “final boss,” it is to warn of the many “antichrists” that were and still are among the church in the season before the finale.

Regarding “antichrists,” there are three specific warning signs he gives:

- Those who come out from among us (19)
- Those who deny God’s revealed truth (20-21)
- Those who deny that Jesus is the Christ (22-23)

How can we test what we hear to know if it is from the Holy Spirit?

The “Bible” Test - Does this line up with the Word of God, which is the benchmark for all revealed truth? (2 Tim. 3:16)

The “Jesus” Test - Does this teaching or religious experience magnify Jesus or in any way denigrate Him? (John 16:13-15)

The “Character” Test - Does this teaching or religious experience promote Godly living? (1 Cor. 10:31-11:1)

The “Decency and Order” Test - Are the words and actions used promoting chaos and confusion, or clarity and understanding? (1 Cor. 12-14)

The “Evangelism” Test - Does this doctrine or experience help or hinder people from coming to Christ? (1 Cor. 9:22)

Consider:

- 1.) Are you able to observe cultural trends, political talking points, product advertisements, etc., and analyze their truth claims objectively against the Word of God?
 - 2.) Have you been able to recognize when an influential voice around you begins to lead in a way that is “anti-Christ?”
 - 3.) Are you more aware of your own need for Jesus’ mercy and grace than of the faults and flaws in those around you?
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A New Commandment

⁷Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment—to love one another—is the same message you heard before. ⁸Yet it is also new. Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, and you also are living it. For the darkness is disappearing, and the true light is already shining.

⁹If anyone claims, “I am living in the light,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is still living in darkness. ¹⁰Anyone who loves a fellow believer is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble. ¹¹But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness.

¹²I am writing to you who are God’s children
because your sins have been forgiven through Jesus.

¹³I am writing to you who are mature in the faith
because you know Christ, who existed from the beginning.

I am writing to you who are young in the faith
because you have won your battle with the evil one.

¹⁴I have written to you who are God’s children
because you know the Father.

I have written to you who are mature in the faith
because you know Christ, who existed from the beginning.

I have written to you who are young in the faith
because you are strong.

God’s word lives in your hearts,
and you have won your battle with the evil one.

Do Not Love This World

¹⁵Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. ¹⁶For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father but are from this world. ¹⁷And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

Warning about Antichrists

¹⁸Dear children, the last hour is here. You have heard that the Antichrist is coming, and already many such antichrists have appeared. From this we know that the last hour has come. ¹⁹These people left our churches, but they never really belonged with us; otherwise they would have stayed with us. When they left, it proved that they did not belong with us.

²⁰But you are not like that, for the Holy One has given you his Spirit, and all of you know the truth. ²¹So I am writing to you not because you don’t know the truth but because you know the difference between truth and lies. ²²And who is a liar? Anyone who says that Jesus is not the Christ. Anyone who denies the Father and the Son is an antichrist. ²³Anyone who denies the Son doesn’t have the Father, either. But anyone who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

²⁴So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father.

²⁵And in this fellowship we enjoy the eternal life he promised us.

²⁶I am writing these things to warn you about those who want to lead you astray. ²⁷But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don’t need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ. **1 John 2:7-27**