

1. Connect to Community through commitment.
2. Build Community through acts of love.
3. Protect Community by recognizing and rejecting false teaching.

Community (Fellowship) is the setting aside of personal interest and desires and the joining with one another for the common purpose of **honoring Jesus Christ**.

1. **1 John 1:4** *And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.*
2. **1 John 2:1** *My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

Human reasoning would teach that a Holy God would be more likely to condemn those who sin against Him rather than forgive. In our God, the opposite of reasoning is true, for He delights in extending forgiveness to those who seek it in Christ.

In **1 John 2:12-14**, John references 3 groups and tells them he is writing to remind them of (1) who they believe in, (2) that their sins are forgiven, (3) that they are in spiritual warfare, and that (4) God's Word has power over sin and Satan.

3. **1 John 2:21** *I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.*

A Follower of Christ is one that desires to (1) know the truth, (2) defend the truth, (3) share the truth, and to (4) be truthful in how they speak.

4. **1 John 2:26** *These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you. ²⁷ But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.*

Biblical Christianity doesn't ignore reasoning; it surpasses it! When we submit to Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, the Holy Spirit takes up residence within us. He leads us, warns us, convicts us, and comforts us. (Re: **John 14:15-17, 16:7-14**) The Holy Spirit is the true teacher, and the Bible is His textbook to show us the truth and to empower us to apply it to life!

Psalm 119:18 *Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law*

5. **1 John 5:13** *These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.*

The work that Jesus did on the cross is what gets us in! Knowing that you have eternal life motivates us to continue to trust Jesus in this present life regardless of our circumstances.

To “KNOW God” is to experience His love in Christ and to return love to Him through faithful obedience. **1 John 4:19**

1 John 2:18-29 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

These false teachers are tools of Satan though they do *not* see themselves as such. Satan is transformed into an angel of light. (**2 Corinthians 4:3-4, 11:14**)

1 John 2:20-23 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. ²¹ I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth. ²² Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is the antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. ²³ Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

The problem in rejecting Scripture is *not* that you believe in nothing, it is that you end up believing in anything.

1 John 2:24-25 Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life.

You have been taught that Christ is the Son of God and in Christ, we have forgiveness and eternal life. Don't allow a charming personality and smooth words to deceive you. (Re: **Romans 16:17-18**)

1 John 2:26-28 These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you. ²⁷ But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him. ²⁸ And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and **not be ashamed** before Him at His coming. ²⁹ If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

Abide | Appears | Ashamed

The word “abide” is a Greek verb in the *present tense*, meaning we are to continue to stay close to Christ, to keep on abiding. There are numerous reasons to abide, and the reason John gives is that when Christ appears we will **not be ashamed**.

John would say to us... I am writing so you would be... **Not Deceived! Not Ashamed!**

Assignment:

1. Evaluate if you are connecting to Community the way God would desire.
2. If not, why are you *not* participating in **ABE** (9:30 Bible Study) and **Life Groups**?
3. Read **1 John** place particular attention on **Chapter 3** to prepare for our 10.8.17 sermon.