



CHAPTER 2

Strong threads running through 1 John: LIGHT, LOVE, LIFE: ... and VICTORY in CHRIST.

* **Headline verses from each chapter:** 1:5, 2:14, 3:8, 4:4, 5:4-5.

→ *What do each of those individual verses tell us about our victory in Christ?*

→ *Ideally, what would victory in life look like for you?*

OUR STATUS AS VICTORS IN CHRIST

* For many, Christianity is all RUES, REGULATIONS & DRY LEGALISM.

* For others, its DOOM & DESPAIR, but least we're ALL IN IT TOGETHER!

* Actually, IN CHRIST, we're firmly POSITIONED on the VICTORY side.

* Because of the CROSS and RESURRECTION, we're standing in the SHADOW of Jesus' history-defining VICTORY.

→ *Has your Christian walk generally been one of victory? Where have you won, and where have you tended to lose? Have the churches you've been in or teaching you've sat under over the years given the impression of walking in victory or something else?*

→ *"In Christ, we're not so much heading TO a victory, but coming FROM a victory." Discuss!*

WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST

a) God has REDEEMED us: From DARKNESS to LIGHT.

b) God has SAVED us: From JUDGMENT to GRACE.

c) God has FORGIVEN us: No longer under the SHADOW of SIN.

d) God has LIBERATED us: From SLAVERY to FREEDOM.

e) God has ADOPTED us: From STRANGERS to SONSHIP.

f) God has EMPOWERED us: No longer WEAK & LACKING, but clothed with SPIRIT & POWER.

→ *To what extent have you walked in the left-hand column of that list (darkness, judgment, sin, slavery, strangers, weak & lacking) or the right-hand column (light, grace, forgiveness, freedom, sonship, Spirit & power)? How did Jesus' death and resurrection prepare the way for you to walk in the right-hand column? If you could move towards the right in any from a) to f), which would you choose and why?*

IT FEELS LIKE A TUG OF WAR

→ *Does it feel like a tug of war? Do you ever feel like that rag-doll caught in the middle? Describe how the tug of war we're talking about works in practice.*

PART 1: Foundational Truth we can stand on confidently (v1-14)

1. The Power of Jesus' ATONING SACRIFICE (v1-2).

2. The Power of God's WORD (v3-6).

3. The Power of the Father's LOVE (v7-11).

4. Summary (v12-14): You know a) Your FATHER, b) Your SAVIOUR and c) The WORD.

→ *Why are numbers 1. to 4. so key to walking in victory? Which do you need to grow in understanding of?*

PART 2: What we're up against → The other agenda in play (v15-27)

1. Do not LOVE the WORLD (v15-17)

a) LUST of the FLESH → Temptation to FEEL physical PLEASURE from SINFUL activity.

b) LUST of the EYES → Temptation to LOOK where we shouldn't and take POSSESSION of what we SEE.

c) PRIDE of LIFE → Temptation to be LIKE God APART from God.

→ *What does it mean to 'love the world'? What is the world bombarding you with?*

→ *How is all sin rooted in one of the trio of lust of flesh / eyes and pride of life?*

Compare this list with Eve's temptation in Genesis 3:6 and Jesus' in Luke 4:1-13.

2. Beware the SPIRIT of ANTICHRIST (v18-27)

* Pulling us away from GOD, towards SIN, away from God's HOLINESS, undermining, discrediting & denying JESUS.

→ *What does it mean by the spirit of anti-Christ? How strong is it in the UK today? In what directions are the spirit of antichrist attempting to pull us? From what and towards what?*

→ *How do verses 20 and 27 help us resist the spirit of antichrist?*

HOW DO WE WIN THE TUG OF WAR?

GOOD NEWS = You have more than enough POWER at your END of the rope.

VICTORY KEY = POINT all of v-14 in direction of v15-27 and CHARGE.

In the face of lust of flesh/eyes and pride of life, we have Jesus' BLOOD, God's WORD, Father's LOVE and the Holy Spirit's POWER.

→ *How does 'Gospel Grammar' fit into this?*

→ *What's the power on the end of your rope? Who's pulling for you? What spiritual weapons do you have to throw at the other side?*

PRACTICALLY, HOW DO WE DEFEAT ...

1. Lust of the flesh: Learn to LISTEN with unrelenting determination to the HOLY SPIRIT.

2. Lust of the eyes: Keep your eyes FIXED on JESUS.

3. Pride of life: HUMBLE yourself, every chance you get.

→ *How do each of these work? Can you give a little more detail? How do you go about resisting the enemy in each of these areas?*

RESPONSE

1. *Take to Lord the things currently pulling you in opposite direction. Ask Him to expose what they are. Repent if necessary and give it completely to Him.*

2. *Ask Him what you need to throw back at it. What do you need to fight against whatever's pulling you in the opposite direction? Time to let those spiritual weapons loose!*