

Objective reality

Every aspect of man's thinking is divorced from reality due to sin.
So when man operates independent from God that is the essence of evil.

Visible Christianity

Visible Christianity's reference point is the objective verifiable word of God.

Our reference point for divine knowledge and relationship is not A.W. Tozer's view, that we should return to the great teachers of the Reformation to discover a closer relationship with God.

5.28.17

5.25.17

Loving our brother = obedience to doctrine

Characteristics of a growing spiritual life

1. Interpreting within the context:

2a.

1 John 2:28-29 (NKJV)

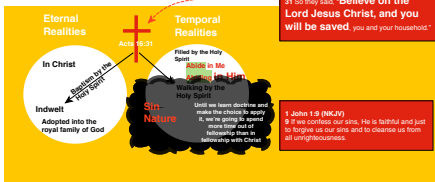
28 And now, little children, **abide** in Him, that when He **appear**s, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.
29 I know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who **practices** righteousness is born of Him.

Imperative – The mood that normally expresses a command, intention, exhortation, or polite request.
The imperative mood is therefore **not an expression of reality but possibility and volition.**

Volition: we either choose to abide or not to abide.

If we choose to abide then something is going to develop in our lives which will reveal our new family relationship.

Until we learn doctrine we're still going to think like we thought before we were saved, and as a result we will also act the same way we acted before we were saved.



Acts 16:31 (NKJV)
31 And he said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved** – you and your household."

1 John 1:9 (NKJV)
9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 3:1-2 (NKJV)

1 Beloved, what manner of **love** the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
2 Beloved, what we **are** children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when this is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.
3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.
4 Whoever commits sin does God's commandments, and sin is lawlessness.
5 And you know that He who practices righteousness is born of Him who is righteous.
6 Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.
7 The who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.
8 He who sins at the end, for the deed alone makes him the beginning. **For he who practices the things of the world, the flesh, and the devil, does not the works of the world.**
9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him, and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

1 John 2:28-29 (NKJV)

28 And now, little children, **abide** in Him
29 I know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who **practices** righteousness is born of Him.

Characteristics of a growing spiritual life

Children who are manifesting the quality of their character
Not a reflection to their position, but rather their relationship with Christ in the family

10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are **revealed**. Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not **love his brother**.

Matthew 16:22-23 (NKJV)

22 Then Peter said to Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord. This shall not happen to You!"
23 But He turned and said to Peter, "**Get behind Me, Satan!** You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

2741: greek: φανερω: v. 10: 28: 3131: TDNT 9.3-1. LN 24.19 cause to be seen.

1 John 2:10 (NKJV)

10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are **obvious**: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

Indicates this will help you to distinguish the difference between a believer and an unbeliever
But it's not talking about the unbeliever versus the believer

Children within the family: one abides, and the other does not!

11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should **love** one another,
12 not as **Cain** who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because **his works were evil** and his brother's righteous.

The manifestation of Abel's positive vision to do better, brought to light Cain's disobedience

13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.
14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we **love** the brethren. He who does not **love** his brother abides in death.
15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

We lay down our ways or methods, for God's

16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. **And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.**
17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts his heart, that he does not give him, how does the **love** of God abide in him?
18 My little children, let us not **love** in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.
19 And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.
20 For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.
21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before Him.
22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.
23 And this is His commandment that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and **love one another**, so we gain life everlasting.
24 Now He who keeps His commandments **abides** in Him, and He in Him, and by this we know that He **abides** in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)
1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Key verse for understanding chapter 3

Until you make the choice to obey doctrine over self-love, you will never be able to perceive the impact the world has on you or on your spouse and as a result, the impact that it will have on your children.

You will always be of the opinion that your thinking is pretty sound.
But eventually one day you will learn to regret the decisions you've made from self-love.

Key verse

As you grow as a believer and come to understand what the word of God says, start your thinking and manage your and acknowledge the human element as your way for divine viewpoint.

And resulting from the change of thinking there's a change of priorities, so that as the believer grows the desire to demonstrate and glorify his new family relationship.

But if you do not see the manifestation of a new family relationship, doesn't necessarily mean they're not a member.

Luke 14:33 (NKJV)

33 So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

Hebrews 10:25 (NKJV)

25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

John 13:34 (NKJV)

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NKJV)

4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;
5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;
6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;
7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

We live by higher standard than the world; and that standard is God's

And God's standard is obedience to his direction

God says do it my way and you will have the abundant life, and eternal inheritance