

LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD
FAMILY RULES FOR “LITTLE CHILDREN”
1 JOHN 2:1–6



The Heart of the Matter

The letter of 1 John is for the family of God. It contains the kind of expressions and information commonly heard among family members behind closed doors. We get that impression from numerous references in these five chapters addressing “little children” and “children,” as well as “fathers,” “young men,” and “brothers.” In this letter, John passed along the same kind of sage advice we hear when gathered at the knee of a family patriarch. At the time he wrote, John had lived almost a century and had endured the blast of life’s harshest treatment. He had felt the brutal blows of persecution and bore the scars that proved it. He had also witnessed the fall of many who once walked closely with their Lord; he anguished over heresies that had sprung up in the lives of Christians he loved—people who were once actively engaged in churches where he had served. Because he had “seen it all,” this old gentleman was able to offer some elementary rules all of us would be wise to hear and obey.



Discovering the Way

1. A Fresh and Creative Way to View John’s Letter

John saw his readers, including us, as little children in need of wise warnings. The challenge for us is to see ourselves as John did and to listen carefully.

2. Six Elementary Rules to Live By (1 John 2:1–6)

Because John was speaking to “little children,” he kept his advice simple, offering six truths every child of God should heed.



Starting Your Journey

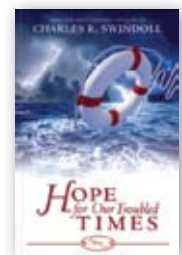
Little children often need reminders, so remember: don’t ever mess with stuff that gets you into trouble; when you foul up, remember you have Someone who is always in your corner; behave yourself because you’re a member of the family; no matter what you say, your actions tell the real truth; always remember your obedience reveals how much you respect your Father; and when you’re looking for a hero to follow—choose Jesus.



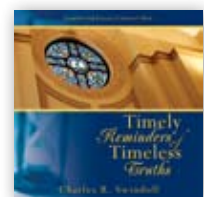
Tools for Digging Deeper



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