

<p>General</p>	<p>Stott, p.89, “This general introduction to the essential relation of man’s life to God’s truth is now particularized in three tests - moral (the test of obedience), social (the test of love), and doctrinal (the test of belief in Christ). The rest of the epistle contains three successive elaborate expositions and applications of these tests.”</p>	
<p>The obedience test</p>	<p><sup>3</sup> Now by this we may be sure that we know him, if we obey his commandments. <sup>4</sup> Whoever says, “I have come to know him,” but does not obey his commandments, is a liar, and in such a person the truth does not exist; <sup>5</sup> but whoever obeys his word, truly in this person the love of God has reached perfection. By this we may be sure that we are in him: <sup>6</sup> whoever says, “I abide in him,” ought to walk just as he walked.</p>	<p>John 14:15-17 (NIV) “If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth.</p> <p>Psalms 85:10 (NIV) Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.</p> <p>“Grace does not abolish God’s law; it internalizes it, by writing it on our hearts.” Jackman, p.37</p> <p>Jeremiah 31:33-34 (NRSV) But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.</p> <p>“...every time we refuse to obey God, we accept the slander against his character which lies at the root of all temptation. We are saying that we know better than God, and that simply means that we do not actually know God well enough.” Jackman, p.37</p>

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">The love test</p>	<p><sup>7</sup> Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word that you have heard. <sup>8</sup> Yet I am writing you a new commandment that is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. <sup>9</sup> Whoever says, "I am in the light," while hating a brother or sister, is still in the darkness. <sup>10</sup> Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light, and in such a person there is no cause for stumbling. <sup>11</sup> But whoever hates another believer is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and does not know the way to go, because the darkness has brought on blindness.</p>	<p>2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV) And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.</p> <p>John 8:12 (NIV) When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">About the church</p>	<p><sup>12</sup> I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven on account of his name. <sup>13</sup> I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young people, because you have conquered the evil one. <sup>14</sup> I write to you, children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young people, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.</p>	

<p><i>About the world</i></p>	<p><sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; <sup>16</sup> for all that is in the world—the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches—comes not from the Father but from the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God live forever.</p>	<p>RE: v15-17 - Beware of shiny objects.</p> <p>RE: v15-17 - 2 Peter 2:19 (NIV) They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for “people are slaves to whatever has mastered them.”</p> <p>RE: v15-17 - Matthew 6:19-21 (NRSV) “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.</p> <p>NBD, “World,” p1261 - The two dominant characteristics of this world are pride, born of man’s failure accept his creaturely estate and dependence on the Creator, which leads him to act as if he were the lord and giver of life , and covetousness, which causes him to desire and possess all that is attractive to his physical senses. And, as man tends in effect to worship that which he covets, such covetousness is idolatry [(Colossians 3:5 (NIV) Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.)]. Accordingly, worldliness is the enthronement of something other than God as the supreme object of man’s interests and affections. Pleasures and occupations, not necessarily wrong in themselves, become so when an all-absorbing attention is paid to them.</p>
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The doctrinal test	<p><sup>18</sup> Children, it is the last hour! As you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. From this we know that it is the last hour. <sup>19</sup> They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. But by going out they made it plain that none of them belongs to us. <sup>20</sup> But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and all of you have knowledge. <sup>21</sup> I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and you know that no lie comes from the truth. <sup>22</sup> Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. <sup>23</sup> No one who denies the Son has the Father; everyone who confesses the Son has the Father also. <sup>24</sup> Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you will abide in the Son and in the Father. <sup>25</sup> And this is what he has promised us, eternal life.</p> <p><sup>26</sup> I write these things to you concerning those who would deceive you. <sup>27</sup> As for you, the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and so you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, abide in him.</p>	
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