

## **Study Guide: First John, Lesson 43**

**December 3, 2025**

This study guide is designed to review the key concepts and teachings presented in the lesson on the book of First John, focusing on the nature of antichrists, the perseverance of believers, and the purity of the church.

### **Short-Answer Quiz**

*Instructions: Answer the following questions in 2-3 complete sentences based on the provided lesson.*

1. According to the lesson, for what primary reason does God allow false teachers to enter His church?
2. What is the first and most emphasized characteristic of an antichrist discussed in this lesson?
3. Based on 1 John 2:19, what is the true meaning behind people departing from the fellowship of the church?
4. What is the "perseverance of the saints," and how is salvation proven according to this doctrine?
5. How does the Apostle John want believers to react when they see people leave the church to follow false teachers?
6. How do true believers, who are abiding in Christ, avoid being deceived and led away by false teachers?
7. What does it mean for a false teacher's conscience to be "seared with an iron," as mentioned in 1 Timothy 4:2?
8. According to Colossians 1:23, what is the condition for a believer to be presented as holy, blameless, and above reproach before God?
9. The lesson describes the departure of false believers as an "unmasking." What exactly is being unmasked or revealed through their actions?
10. Briefly outline the biblical process for church discipline when a member is believed to be in sin.

-----

## Answer Key

1. God allows false teachers into His church for the purpose of purification. They act as a catalyst to draw out people from the church who are not genuine believers, as these non-genuine individuals will be the ones who follow the false teachers. In this way, God uses the treacherous work of deceivers for the good of His church.
  2. The first characteristic of an antichrist is that they depart from the fellowship of the church. They come into the congregation, attempt to draw people away with falsehoods, and then they leave. Their departure is a key identifier of their nature.
  3. According to 1 John 2:19, when people depart from the church, it is a manifestation that they were never truly part of the fellowship to begin with. The verse states, "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."
  4. The "perseverance of the saints" is a major tenet of Reformed theology which teaches that those who are genuinely saved will continue in the faith until the end. Salvation is therefore proven by a person's perseverance; if someone claims to believe but then permanently leaves the faith, according to this doctrine, they were never truly saved.
  5. John wants believers to be strengthened in their faith, not shaken or filled with doubt. Instead of questioning their own beliefs, they should see the departure of others as a confirmation of the truth they hold. It should produce confidence, as it is an unmasking of those who were phony from the start.
  6. True believers avoid deception because the anointing they have received from Him abides in them and teaches them all things (1 John 2:27). Because they are taught by the Holy Spirit and abide in Christ, they are able to discern truth from lies and will not abandon the truth for a lie.
  7. A conscience "seared with an iron" means that it has become deadened and desensitized, like scar tissue that no longer has feeling. These false teachers are so hardened that they feel no pain or guilt about their hypocrisy and the hellish lies they spread. They are unconscionable and beyond feeling.
  8. The condition is stated in the verse: "**if indeed you continue in the faith**, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard..." This means that the state of being holy and blameless is contingent upon one's perseverance and continuation in the faith.
  9. Their departure is an "unmasking" of their hypocrisy and reveals that they never truly believed in the first place. It gives clear evidence of their true character, showing that they were not genuine possessors of the Holy Spirit. Their defection makes it manifest that they were never truly "of us."
  10. An individual first approaches the sinning person privately to gain a brother. If that fails, they return with two or three witnesses. If the person still does not repent, the matter is brought to the church elders, and if there is still no repentance, it is told to the entire church. The ultimate goal at every step is repentance and restoration.
-

## Essay Questions

*Instructions: Consider the following questions for deeper reflection and discussion. Formulate your own comprehensive answers based on the themes and scriptures presented in the lesson.*

1. Analyze the role of "antichrists" (with a little 'a') within the church as described in the lesson. Discuss their methods, their purpose, and God's sovereign oversight in their work of "purifying" the congregation.
2. Explain the theological concept of "the perseverance of the saints" using scripture references from the lesson (e.g., 1 John 2:19, Colossians 1:21-23, Hebrews 3:14). How does this doctrine provide assurance to genuine believers while also serving as a warning?
3. The lesson describes the departure of some individuals as an "unmasking of their hypocrisy." Elaborate on this idea. How does their defection serve to ultimately strengthen the faith of those who remain in the fellowship?
4. Discuss the modern dangers of spreading false teaching through media such as laptops, podcasts, and websites, as mentioned by the speaker. According to 1 John 2:27, what is the primary defense a true Christian has against this pervasive influence?
5. Detail the step-by-step process of church discipline as outlined in the lesson. What is its ultimate goal, and how does this process relate to the overarching themes of church purity and the evidence of true salvation?

---

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Abide:** To remain, continue, or stay. In a spiritual context, it means to remain in fellowship and communion with Christ and His teachings.
- **Antichrist(s):** In this lesson, refers to individuals (little 'a' antichrists) who oppose Christ, deny His nature, and spread false teaching. They are distinct from the final, singular Antichrist (big 'A').
- **Apostates:** Individuals who fall away from and renounce a religious faith they once professed. The lesson asserts that such individuals were never truly saved.
- **Charlatans:** People who falsely claim to have special knowledge or skill; a fraud. In this context, it refers to prominent preachers who are like "snake oil" salesmen.
- **Church Discipline:** A process outlined in the Bible (referenced from Matthew in the lesson) for correcting sin among members of the church, with the goal of repentance and restoration.
- **Doctrine:** A belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a church or other group. The lesson emphasizes the importance of good, Bible-based doctrine.
- **False Believers:** Individuals within the church who may outwardly profess faith in Christ and go through the motions but are not genuinely saved. They are susceptible to being drawn away by false teachers.
- **False Teachers:** Individuals who come into the church and spread lies, heresy, and doctrines of demons, often for a hidden agenda.
- **Heresy:** Belief or opinion contrary to orthodox religious (especially Christian) doctrine.

- **Hypocrisy:** The practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one's own behavior does not conform. False teachers and those who follow them are described as hypocrites.
- **Last Hour:** The period of time between Christ's first and second comings; the messianic time. The presence of many antichrists is a sign that it is the last hour.
- **Perfection:** As used in Hebrews 6, it refers to spiritual maturity. The writer encourages believers to move beyond the elementary principles of Christ and go on toward this state.
- **Perseverance of the Saints:** A key doctrine of Reformed theology teaching that those who are truly saved by God will persevere in their faith to the end and cannot permanently fall away.
- **Purpose Clause:** A grammatical term for a part of a sentence that explains the reason or aim behind an action. Used to explain that the purpose of the antichrists' departure was to show they were never part of the true fellowship.
- **Reconciled/Reconciliation:** The restoration of friendly relations. Theologically, it is the work of Christ's death that ends the enmity between God and humanity, allowing believers to be presented to God as holy and blameless.
- **Reformed Theology:** A system of Christian theology that traces its roots to the Protestant Reformation, emphasizing God's sovereignty. The "perseverance of the saints" is one of its major tenets.
- **TULIP:** An acronym for the five main principles of Calvinism (a branch of Reformed theology). The 'P' stands for the Perseverance of the saints, as mentioned in the lesson.