



1 John 1

Chapter 1:1-10

814 Arion Parkway, #410
San Antonio, Texas 78216
210.319.5055

©2021. Verse By Verse Ministry International.
All rights reserved

versebyverseministry.org/lessons/1-john-1

- The author does not identify himself by name in this letter.
- There are clues as we read this letter that indicate the author claims to have spent time with Jesus when He physically walked the earth in Israel.
 - The author also uses the pronoun “we” when identifying these personal connections to Jesus
 - So it would be safe to conclude this author was one of the disciples of Jesus when He traveled throughout Israel.
- Tradition holds this author to be the disciple known as John, the same disciple who penned the gospel of John.

1John 1:1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life —

1John 1:2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us —

1John 1:3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

1John 1:4 These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

- How does this letter begin?
 - There are four clarifiers, all of which John says are concerning what?
 - The Word of Life
 - John says the Word of Life was what? From the beginning.
 - From the beginning of what?
 - For insight let’s look at how John begins in his gospel? John 1:1-3

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:2 He was in the beginning with God.

John 1:3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

- In verse 1 John says in the beginning was what? (the Word)
 - The Word was what? (with God)
 - The Word was not just with God but was what else? (was God)
- In verse 2, what else is described about the Word? (He was in the beginning with God)
 - John says the Word is He. The Word is a being. This being was in the beginning with God.
- In verse 3, how is the beginning described? (All things came into being through Him)

- What does it mean for something to “come into being”? (It is created)
- It was not in existence and then it is created and now it is come into being.
- The person who was called the Word brought all things into existence, this moment in time we also call the creation. This creation is described in the book of Genesis.
- So we now have the answer to 1 John 1:1
 - The Word of Life was from the beginning of what? (The creation)
- Who is this Word of Life that was from the beginning of creation? See Colossians 1:

Col. 1:12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

Col. 1:13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

Col. 1:14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Col. 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Col. 1:16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him.

- v.12 Who do we give thanks to? (the Father)
 - v.13 Who is the He? (the Father)
 - The Father transferred us to the kingdom of who? (His beloved Son)
 - Who is His beloved Son? (Jesus)
 - v.15 Who is the “He”? (Jesus)
 - v.16 Who is the “For by Him” all thing were created? (Jesus)
- Back in 1 John, Who was the Word of Life that was from the beginning? (Jesus)
 - v.1 What else was true about the Word of Life? (what we have heard)
 - John is giving witness to the fact that what he is going to testify to, he and the other apostles heard with their own ears.
 - This is not second hand information. The Word of Life spoke to them directly. Jesus spoke to the apostles in person.
- What else is true about the Word of Life? (what we have seen with our eyes)
 - The apostles saw the Word of Life (Jesus) with their own eyes and what they share is not a second hand account of what someone else saw.
 - What is the last thing John says is true about the Word of Life (Jesus)? (what we have looked at and touched with our hands) See also Luke 24:

Luke 24:36 While they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be to you.”

Luke 24:37 But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit.

Luke 24:38 And He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts

arise in your hearts?

Luke 24:39 “See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

Luke 24:40 And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.

Luke 24:41 While they still could not believe it because of their joy and amazement, He said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?”

Luke 24:42 They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish;

Luke 24:43 and He took it and ate it before them.

- When Jesus appears to his own disciples they had doubts it was Him in the flesh after the resurrection.
 - v.37 What did the disciples think they saw? (thought that they were seeing a spirit)
 - v.39 What does Jesus tell the disciples to do to help them deal with their doubts? (“See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see”)
 - Jesus also says “for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”)
- This account given in Luke confirms the disciples who became apostles to the church had in fact all seen Jesus after the resurrection with their own eyes.
- So in 1 John, the apostles were looking at Jesus while they touched Him with their own hands. John says clearly we saw the Word of Life (Jesus) with our eyes when we touched Him.
 - This was confirmed in the Luke 24 scripture.
- John has covered all the bases in the opening of this letter to be very clear about the testimony of the apostles as eye witnesses to the events revealed.
 - This sets them apart from many of the false teachers that will come after them.
- v.1 ends with “concerning the Word of Life”. How is this connected to v.2? (and the life was manifested)
 - Manifested means to make clear or evident to the eye or the understanding, show plainly
 - What was manifested? (the life)
 - Whose life was manifested? (the Word of Life)
 - Who is the Word of Life? (Jesus)
 - It is Jesus’ life that was manifested. This is confirmed in the gospel of John 21:

John 21:1 After these things Jesus manifested Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He manifested Himself in this way.

- This is the story of the disciples fishing and Jesus telling them to cast their nets and they bring in a huge net full of fish and then Jesus eats the fish and bread with them.

John 21:14 This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead.

- The scriptures say Jesus made clear and evident to the eye and the understanding of the disciples that He was alive in the flesh as described after He was raised from the dead.
 - In fact John says this was the third time for such a manifestation.
 - v.2 What else does John say about this life being manifested to them? (and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life)
 - John says they all had seen this life and testify to this life and proclaim this life.
 - How does John describe this life? (the eternal life)
- This testimony of the apostle's witness is that the life which Jesus manifested to them was not just a resurrected life but the focus is on the eternal life.
 - This would indicate there had be some teaching that put this eternal life promise in doubt. John is drawing clear lines that what the apostles proclaimed was eternal life.
 - Where had this eternal life come from? (which was with the Father)
 - What happened with this eternal life? (and was manifested to us —)
 - Remembering the definition of manifested we can take to read the eternal life was made clear and evident to the eye and the understanding of the apostles. The apostles now have this same eternal life that Jesus (The Word of Life) has.
 - v.3 What does John say to those reading this letter? (what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us;)
 - The eternal life the apostles have seen and heard, they proclaim or announce it can be had by others who would believe also.
 - When someone becomes a believer and has this proclaimed eternal life what else do they have with the apostles? (so that you too may have fellowship with us)
 - What does John declare is true for the apostles? (and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.)
 - v.4 What is the result of the apostles sharing this information with others? (These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.)
- When these apostles share what they have in eternal life and others join them in this eternal life it brings a joy in fellowship with them. Also 3 John 3-4:

3John 3 For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your truth, that is, how you are walking in truth.

3John 4 I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.

- Let's read 1 John 1:5-10

1John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

1John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

1John 1:7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

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

1John 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

- v.5 What does John share next? (This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.)
 - Who is the first 'Him' referring to? (Jesus)
 - See v.3 the fellowship is with the Father first and then finishes with His Son Jesus Christ. The last object is God's Son Jesus Christ.
 - What did God's Son Jesus Christ give? (This is the message we have heard from Him)
- There are words spoken by Jesus that did not make it into the written scriptures but his disciples would know what He spoke.
 - What were the apostles to do with this message? (announce to you)
 - What was the message? (that God is Light, and in Him *(God)* there is no darkness at all.)
- John introduces a contrast between light and darkness. He often uses this contrast in his writings, what do we know about this contrast in spiritual terms.
 - What does scripture have to say about light? One example John 8:12

John 8:12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

- Where in scriptures can we see darkness defined. Isaiah 5:20, Daniel 2:22, Acts 26:14-18

Is. 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;
Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness;
Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

- We find darkness compared to evil and light to good.

Dan. 2:22 "It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things;
He knows what is in the darkness,
And the light dwells with Him.

- In Daniel we learn He (God) knows what is in the darkness.
 - This is also seen in the story of Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus.

Acts 26:14 “And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’

Acts 26:15 “And I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.

Acts 26:16 ‘But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you;

Acts 26:17 rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you,

Acts 26:18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.’

- When Jesus reveals Himself to Paul to be a witness concerning Jesus and describes his assignment and calling, He describes the darkness as the dominion of Satan where sin is that must be forgiven.
- v.6 Why does John say it is important for us to know what darkness is?
 - (If we say that we have fellowship with Him (*God*) and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth)
 - What does it mean for someone to say they have fellowship with Him? (To know God and be in a relationship with God)
 - Someone can say they fellowship with God but then do what? (and *yet* walk in the darkness)
 - To walk in the darkness is to walk in the dominion of Satan in sin versus forgiveness of sin with Christ
 - What is true about someone who says they have fellowship with God but then walks in the dominion of Satan? (we lie and do not practice the truth)
 - What are we lying about? (about having fellowship with God)
- If we do not have this fellowship with God we can't do what? (practice this truth.)
 - We can't pretend to have this fellowship with God or claim we know God when we walk in the dominion of Satan in unforgiven sin at the same time.
- Let's look at an example of this in our life experiences to see this truth.
 - In our personal relationships we can experience and display anger to others.
 - If we work through where this anger comes from we often find it is from a hurt or fear we have encountered or are enduring.
 - We can have the feeling of hurt or fear at the same time we feel angry. These emotions can exist at the same time even though they seem to be contrary.
 - The opposite would be looking at feelings that can't exist at the same time

like anger and apathy or love and apathy. These emotions don't co-exist – you have either one or the other.

- John says you can't be in fellowship with God and walk in unforgiven or unrepentant sin at the same time; they can't co-exist.
 - Our behavior is not separate from our relationship with God.
- v.7 What must be present in our life to be in fellowship with God? (but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another)
 - We can only have this fellowship with God as we walk in the Light. This is not about fellowship of fellow Christians, the focus is on the fellowship with God the Father.
 - What allows us to walk in the Light? (and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin)
 - When we believe in the gospel and by faith believe our sin is taken away by the sacrifice, the blood, of Jesus we walk in the true Light.
 - The scripture uses the word sin in the singular to emphasis this is the sin that we are born in that needs the blood of Christ, it is not just the sins we commit.
- v.8 What can't co-exist? (If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.)
 - To declare we have no sin to be forgiven, John says we are doing what first? (deceiving ourselves)
 - What else does John say is true when we declare we have no sin to be forgiven? (the truth is not in us)
 - These two things can't exist together, you can't claim to have no sin and have truth in you at the same time.
- v.9 What truth needs to exist in us? (If we confess our sins)
 - This is an ongoing process – we need to learn what sin is by our study of the bible and through communion with God through prayer.
 - Once we recognize we have sin we then must confess that sin to God.
 - The scripture says "sins" in the plural to underscore that the confession of our sins is an ongoing process.
 - What is true about God when we confess our sins? (He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.)
- v 10 What is the opposite of confessing our sins? (If we say that we have not sinned,)
 - What does a declaration of someone claiming to have no sin do? (we make Him a liar)
 - God is not a liar so if we say we have not sinned what is true about us? (and His word is not in us.)
 - What word is His word? (v.1 says The Word of Life)
 - What is the "Word of Life"? (Jesus)
 - If we declare we have not sinned then we do not have the Word of Life (Jesus) in us, then we have no fellowship with God.
- If someone says they have no sin they would have no need for a savior.

- If someone says they have no sin then there was never any conviction of sin by the Holy Spirit and therefore no need of Jesus.
- As we move through this letter from John we will see a pattern unfold in what John is teaching about a true fellowship with God and a falsely declared relationship with God.
- We will review these patterns in regards to the false teaching present in John's day as well as the parallels to the false teaching over church history including what is clearly evident in current church teaching.



1 John 2A

Chapter 2:1-6

814 Arion Parkway, #410
San Antonio, Texas 78216
210.319.5055

©2021. Verse By Verse Ministry International.
All rights reserved

versebyverseministry.org/lessons/1-john-2a

- Let's quickly review Chapter 1
 - The Word of Life is Jesus from the beginning of creation.
 - Jesus brought the way to have fellowship with God resulting in eternal life.
 - The apostles were eye witnesses to Jesus' physical resurrection.
 - Believers have sin but should avoid sin.
- Continuing in Chapter 2

1John 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

1John 2:2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

- v 1 How does John begin? (My little children)
 - Who is John addressing? (Believers)
 - What is the message John has for these believers? (I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.)
- John does not say you will not sin or cannot sin, but that you MAY not sin.
 - What is provided to those believers who sin? (And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;)
 - Who is the 'anyone' referring to? (The believers)
 - When believers sin what do we have? (an Advocate)
 - Who do we need an Advocate with? (the Father)
 - Who is the Advocate? (Jesus Christ the righteous)
- What is an Advocate? (A person who pleads for or on behalf of another; intercessor.)
 - v.2 How is Jesus Christ the Advocate for the believer? (and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins;)
 - What does it mean that Jesus Christ is the propitiation for our sins?
- Propitiation is a biblical doctrine we need to take time to understand.
 - First we begin looking for this word elsewhere in scripture.
 - We find it used in this same book in 1 John 4:10

1John 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

- It is because God loved us He sent Jesus, His Son, to be the propitiation for our sins.
 - How was this propitiation demonstrated? Romans 3:21-25

Rom. 3:21 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been

manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,
Rom. 3:22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;
Rom. 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
Rom. 3:24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;
Rom. 3:25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;

- v.21 What has been manifested? (*the* righteousness of God)
 - v.22 How is the righteousness of God manifested? (through faith in Jesus Christ)
 - This faith in Jesus Christ is for who? (all those who believe)
 - v.23 What is true for all those who believe? (for all have sinned)
- All believers have sinned.
 - Because all believers have sin what is true? (fall short of the glory of God,)
 - When we fall short of the glory of God we can't be in the presence of God.
- v.24 All believers are what? (being justified as a gift by His grace)
 - What does justified mean.
 - The word is a legal term meaning acquitted not innocent.
 - Sinners fall short of the glory of God and need to be justified to be in the presence of God.
 - To be justified is what? (a gift)
 - This is not something you can earn.
 - This gift is given how? (by His grace)
- How are believers justified? (through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus)
 - v.25 How was this redemption demonstrated (whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith)
 - When did God display Christ Jesus publicly in His blood? (At the cross)
 - When was the blood displayed at the cross (After Jesus died) See John 19:32-34

John 19:32 So the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Him;
John 19:33 but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.
John 19:34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

- This is the gospel description of when God publicly displayed Jesus in His blood.
 - Romans describes this as a propitiation in His blood.

- Why is the blood of Jesus so important? See Hebrews 9:14.

Heb. 9:14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

- The blood must be from someone without blemish who does not have any reason for the wrath of God to be poured out on Him, and only Jesus met this standard.
 - The wrath that must come from God for sin was poured out on Jesus.
 - God cannot look beyond our sin and be considered just.
 - God accepted a substitutionary payment of Jesus' death with His blood in place of our death and blood for our sin.
 - Jesus took God's wrath in our place...This IS our propitiation.
- 1John 2:2 This propitiation is for who? (and not for ours only, but also for *those of the whole world*.)
 - Who is the whole world referring to?
 - Is this propitiation applied to the whole world?
 - Will there be men who are not saved? Romans 2:5-8, Ephesians 5:5-6

Rom. 2:5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

Rom. 2:6 who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS:

Rom. 2:7 to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life;

Rom. 2:8 but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.

Eph. 5:5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Eph. 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

- If this blessed propitiation is not for the whole world, or every man then what is John referring to?
 - John is saying this propitiation was not only for the apostles, it was not only for the Jews, it was for the all the world to receive.
 - Jesus is the only propitiation from God for man, there will be no other.
- Let's continue in 1 John:

1John 2:3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His

commandments.

1John 2:4 The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

1John 2:5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:

1John 2:6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

- v.3 How can someone confirm they truly know Jesus Christ? (By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.)
 - Who is the “Him”? (Jesus)
 - v.2 ended with “He Himself is the propitiation for our sins”. That is Jesus.
- John has already established that all men have sin so he is not now saying believers can find themselves in a state of being with no sin by keeping His commandments.
 - What is the test about? (that we have come to know Him)
 - Do we really know Jesus or do we know about Jesus.
 - How do we get to know Jesus? (if we keep His commandments)
 - What commandments? Let’s look at Matthew 22:42-40, Luke 10:25-29, 36-37

Matt. 22:34 But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together.

Matt. 22:35 One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him,

Matt. 22:36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”

Matt. 22:37 And He said to him, “‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’

Matt. 22:38 “This is the great and foremost commandment.

Matt. 22:39 “The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’

Matt. 22:40 “On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

Luke 10:25 And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

Luke 10:26 And He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?”

Luke 10:27 And he answered, “‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’”

Luke 10:28 And He said to him, “You have answered correctly; DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE.”

Luke 10:29 But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

- After this Jesus tells the parable of the ‘good Samaritan’, and ends with these two verses.

Luke 10:36 “Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers’ hands?”

Luke 10:37 And he said, “The one who showed mercy toward him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do the same.”

- That’s the answer to who our neighbor is, the one who shows mercy toward him.
 - These verses also give us our answer as to what commandments we should be obeying if we have “come to know Him”.
 - 1 John 2:4 How can we know if someone does not truly know Jesus? (The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him)
- If someone says what? (“I have come to know Him,”)
 - This is someone who says they have come to know Jesus.
 - But their behavior is what? (and does not keep His commandments)
 - What is the truth about that person? (is a liar, and the truth is not in him)
 - They do not know His commandments.
 - They do not advocate to keep His commandments.
 - They do not teach others to keep His commandments.
 - They disregard in all facets of their life His commandments.
 - These men then do not know Him.
 - They are lying when they say they know Him.
 - They do not have truth in them. Jesus is not their savior, the Holy Spirit does not indwell them.
 - v.5 What comparison does John give? (but whoever keeps His word)
 - What is true about this person? (in him the love of God has truly been perfected.)
 - What has been perfected? (the love of God)
- If the love of God has been perfected in us what do we know? (By this we know that we are in Him)
 - Do we know His commandments?
 - Do we advocate to keep His commandments?
 - Do we teach others to keep His commandments?
 - Do we regard in all facets of our lives His commandments?
 - These men then do know Him.
 - Do we have truth in us?
 - Jesus is in us, the Holy Spirit indwells in us.
- v.6 How can others know this is true about us? (the one who says he abides in Him)

ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.)

- What is the goal if we say we abide in Him? (to walk in the same manner as He walked)
- What would it mean to walk in the same manner as He walked? (To emulate the life Jesus lived out on earth in His humanity)
 - This is the goal of a true believer.
- It seems so far in this study there have been a lot of topics John is unveiling in an indirect manner and it has taken extra effort for us to understand exactly what John might be talking about.
 - Concepts like knowing God, declaring one does not have sin, light versus darkness, keeping versus not keeping commandments.
 - What exactly is John addressing in this letter?
- These concepts were important for John to highlight because they are direct refutations to a specific false teaching prevalent in the early church called Gnosticism.
 - Gnosticism (*Gnōstikós* in the Greek), means “having knowledge”
 - My understanding of Gnosticism comes from the gathering of information from researching many commentaries and websites. There is a lot of research available on this topic so feel free to do your own study time on this if you desire to delve deeper into this subject matter.
- The basic highlights of the tenants of Gnosticism are:
 - 1. A person’s knowledge, defined through mystical experiences, broadens perception of God and that learning is superior when compared to a person’s character.
 - 2. Attaining special knowledge, often obtained through experiential encounters is reserved for a few individuals not for everyone.
 - Things not literal in scriptures could only be interpreted with this special knowledge.
 - 3. God, as supreme deity, cannot have anything to do with evil so this God did not create the physical world (matter) – there is another creator for this world.
 - 4. Physical matter and spirit cannot co-exist because matter is where evil resides.
- For Deity
 - Deity did not become human only took on that form.
 - Jesus came to bring man back to the light of God. This has been repackaged often as enlightenment.
 - Physical resurrection is not possible. (This is often listed as a 5th tenet)
- For Man
 - Our physical being and our spiritual being are not interconnected.
 - The spiritual self cannot sin because what the physical self does cannot impact the spiritual self.
 - Some gave in to their physical desires because they reasoned it had nothing to do with their spiritual being. This leads to licentiousness.

- Some abused the physical body so they could go beyond it and reach the spiritual part of themselves through self abasement.
- With this understanding it becomes clear John is laying out direct refutations to the basic tenets of this belief system.
- To the first point, John refutes in Chapter 2:3 the only way to demonstrate true knowledge of God is to keep His commandments.
 - Knowledge is not superior to character.
 - True knowledge of God cannot exist without character, demonstrated through actions.
- Point 2 John refutes in Chapter 1:3 “so that you too may have fellowship with us”
 - John communicates that everyone has access to fellowship with God
 - Also Chapter 2:2 “and not for ours only, but also for *those of the whole world*” John informs the readers this is not restricted to an exclusive group of believers but all believers.
- Point 3 John clarifies in Chapter 1:1 “What was from the beginning”
 - God alone is the creator of all through Jesus.
- Point 4 John proves there were eyewitnesses to the physical life Jesus lived on earth as well as the physically resurrected Jesus, including himself.
 - Chapter 1:2 “and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us —”
 - John says the life (deity) that was with the Father was the same life (deity) manifested in Jesus’ humanity and there are many eyewitness.
 - Also to debunk point 4 that “Jesus came to bring man back to the light of God” John declares in Chapter 1:5 “God is Light”
- There are multiple ways point 4 was interpreted and applied in the false teaching. One of these ways was to claim since the spirit was saved and perfected by God then sin no longer existed for them.
 - They claimed they had no sin. John deals with this in Chapter 1:8 “If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.” and v.10 “If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.”
 - In Chapter 2:4 “The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar,” John explains anyone saying they don’t need to keep God’s commandments, and therefore not avoid sin, is a liar meaning they don’t have fellowship, or have knowledge of God.
 - John directly says if someone claimed not to have sin they lie and did not know God.
- As we continue through this letter from John we will make note when what John is declaring is a clear contrast to what this false teaching was advocating.



1 John 2B

Chapter 2:7-29

P.O. Box 702107
San Antonio, Texas, 78270
210.319.5055

©2021. Verse By Verse Ministry International.
All rights reserved

versebyverseministry.org/lessons/1-john-2b

- Review of Chapter 1:
 - The Word of Life is Jesus from beginning of creation.
 - Jesus brought the way to have fellowship with God resulting in eternal life.
 - The apostles were eye witnesses to Jesus' physical resurrection.
 - Believers have sin but should avoid sin.
- Chapter 2 so far:
 - Jesus is our propitiation.
 - Keep His commandments.
- What are the five basic tenets of Gnosticism discussed?
 - 1. Knowledge superior to virtue
 - 2. Non-literal scripture only a select few could interpret
 - 3. God is not only creator because He couldn't create a world with sin
 - 4. Deity can't exist in flesh
 - 5. No resurrection
- John had said to these believers that the one who "does not keep His commandments, is a liar"
 - John continues his explanation. Read 1 John 2:7-11

1John 2:7 Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard.

1John 2:8 On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining.

1John 2:9 The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now.

1John 2:10 The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

1John 2:11 But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

- v.7 What does John say next? (Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard.)
 - What term does John use to clarify his audience? (Beloved)
 - The beloved are who? (Believers)
 - John writes what? (an old commandment which you have had from the beginning;)
 - How had they heard this old commandment? (the old commandment is the word which you have heard.)

- Where would we look to see old commandments the believers would know about? See Deuteronomy 6:4-6, Leviticus 19:18

Deut. 6:4 “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!

Deut. 6:5 “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Deut. 6:6 “These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.

Lev. 19:18 ‘You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.

- 1 John 2:8 What does John add to this? (On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you,)
 - This commandment is true for who? (in Jesus and is true in believers)
 - Why is this command true for both? (because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining.)
- The word Light is capitalized which tells us this is not a generic reference to light but is speaking about a person.
 - Who is the “true Light”? (Jesus is the person referred to as “true Light”)
 - How does the true Light shine?
 - Firstly, the true Light shines because Jesus came to the world and His light shines.
 - Secondly, when a person becomes a believer they have the Holy Spirit in them. They become another point of His light in the world.
 - This is demonstrated each time we see a candle light service.
 - The room starts dark and becomes brighter and brighter as more and more candles illuminate the space.
 - This is exactly what John is describing.
- v.9 What is one way to know if someone is not in the Light? (The one who says he is in the Light and *yet* hates his brother is in the darkness until now.)
 - John says there are those who say they are in the Light but do what? (yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now)
 - Who is a brother in this context? (Another believer)
 - A believer can’t be in the Light of Jesus and still hate other believers.
 - These two things can’t co-exist.
- v.10 What is the comparison to this hate? (The one who loves his brother abides in the Light)
 - The demonstration of love from one believer to another is a confirmation they are in the Light.

John 13:34 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

John 13:35 “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

- 1 John 2:10 When a believer loves another believer what is also true? (and there is no cause for stumbling in him.)
- The demonstration of love for a brother in Christ would be to avoid anything that could cause another believer to stumble.
 - How would one believer stumble another believer? (There are many ways this could be true however John is specifically dealing with false teaching in the church.)
 - Those who would cause believers to move away from the true gospel and away from the apostles clear teaching of the gospel and the call to walk away from sin
- v.11 What separation does John say can be made about whether someone is a believer? (But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.)
 - When someone is claiming to be a believer but harbors hatred for another believer John says that person is in darkness.
 - What was the conclusion of what darkness was from our study of 1 John 1:5? (the darkness is the dominion of Satan, where sin is that must be forgiven.)
- What is true for the one who is in the darkness? (and walks in the darkness)
 - This person walks in the dominion of Satan.
 - What does it mean to walk? (Live out each moment of each day)
 - When one walks in the darkness what is true about that walk? (and does not know where he is going)
 - He does not know where he is going as he walks through this life and he does not know where he is going in his eternal destination.
 - The darkness has done what to this person? (has blinded his eyes)
 - This person is blind to what the truth is. With blind eyes they don't even see the darkness they are in.
- False teachers often begin by disparaging others.
 - When others are teaching contrary to what the false teachers are advocating they will often attack not just the teaching but the person doing the teaching.
- John is saying this one element of the current and future teachers in the church should be scrutinized, if they demonstrate hatred to other believers they should not be followed because the darkness has blinded their eyes.
 - This would be a refutation of the false teaching someone can claim to know God and separate their character or actions from that fellowship with God.
- Let's read 1 John 2:12-14

1John 2:12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake.

1John 2:13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father.

1John 2:14 I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

- v.12 How does John address the believers next? (I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake.)
 - John say he is talking to who? (little children)
 - Who are the 'little children'? (Believers)
 - Believers are as 'little children' of God because of what? (because your sins have been forgiven you)
 - When our sins are forgiven we are children of God.
 - Why have our sins been forgiven? (for His name's sake.)
 - What is a name's sake? (one who is named after someone else)
 - The name is to be carried on to another generation.
 - Jesus Christ died so our sins could be forgiven. We are now His name's sake.
- v.13 What does John address next? (I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning.)
 - John says what first? (I am writing to you)
 - John is giving the reason for writing the letter.
 - Why does John say he addresses the 'fathers'? (because you know Him who has been from the beginning.)
 - Who is the "Him"? (Jesus)
 - The pronoun reference is to the true Light. That true light is our name sake.
 - Jesus is described how? (Who has been from the beginning)
 - John began this letter with this reference to the "beginning" in 1:1.
 - This is a focus back to the creation and this would be another moment for John to refute the false teaching saying Jesus was not the creator of this world.
- How does John address believers next? (I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.)
 - Who is the evil one? (Always a reference to Satan)
- Believers have their sins forgiven and know the creator, and in actions have overcome the evil one.
 - Believers have in the ultimate sense overcome evil because we belong to Jesus

and have eternal life.

- The Gnostics were always questioning the believers' knowledge to make them doubt they had all the answers they needed.
- What is the purpose John wrote to the believers as children? (I have written to you, children, because you know the Father.)
 - We are His children because we truly know the Father, we are in fellowship with the Father.
- v.14 What is the purpose John wrote to the believers as fathers? (I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning.)
 - What is the purpose John wrote to the believers as young men? (I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.)
 - What two elements of young men does John add here that was not mentioned before? (You are strong, and the word of God abides in you)
- In v.14 John is imitating Hebrew parallelism; repeating verses 12 and 13 with slight differences.
 - The false teachers may have been teaching concepts to these Christians to feel weak or unable to do good.
 - John tells them repeatedly they have all they need in strength because the word of God abides in them and the conclusion is that they have already overcome the evil one.
- John insists believers had true knowledge of God in that they knew what it was to have their sins forgiven and have fellowship with the Eternal One, which allows them to be like zealous young men who had defeated satanic assaults.
 - John has not wavered in his discussion of what it means to truly KNOW God.
- Read 1 John 2:15-17

1John 2:15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

1John 2:17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

- What is the contrast John gives? (If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.)
- v.15 What does John caution the believers about now? (Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.)
 - These are two mutually exclusive world views. You can't do both at the same time.
 - If you do love the world then the conclusion is what? (the Father is not in him)
 - Following John's narrative these men would not know the Father, they would be unbelievers.

- v.16 How does John help define what he is referring to? (For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.)
- Three things are listed as matters of the world.
 - 1. Lust of flesh focuses on the gratification of our fleshly desires.
 - Taste like food and drink, touch like comfortable clothes and physical touch, smells like perfumes or memory scents, hearing like nature and music
 - All things that stimulate the brain or direct emotions in some form including drugs & activities.)
 - 2. The lust of his eyes is craving for what is seen, the outward appearance of things
 - It is the desire of the superficial and often what others have.
 - 3. Boastful pride of life is the bragging of what one already has and/or does
 - Like job, hobby, sports, education, achievements, family...
- The two clarifiers used are lust and boastful.
 - When the driving force is lust, the flesh is no longer able to be controlled – it controls us.
 - When we are boastful instead of being grateful for the gifts in this life that is not from God.
- Keep in mind that the writer is teaching against Gnosticism – what point is he specifically dealing with here?
 - They would teach knowledge is superior, while John is saying virtue is superior and so defines virtue for them
- v.17 What is the outcome of each world view? (The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.)
 - What does it mean the world and also its lust are passing away? (Coming to an end)
 - None of the things of the world or the fleshly indulgences will be remembered in the future, they will cease to exist.
- Now the great comparison – “but the one who does the Will of God“ does what? (lives forever)
 - The comparison is one who follows the path of the world OR the will of God.
 - These two things are always in contrast and conflict.
 - They can never be the same thing or coexist.
 - Only doing the will of God leads to eternal life.

1John 2:18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

1John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

1John 2:20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

1John 2:21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

1John 2:22 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.

1John 2:23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

1John 2:24 As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

1John 2:25 This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.

- v.18 What does John address next? (Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.)
 - How does John again refer to the believers? (Children)
 - John concludes it is what? (it is the last hour:)
 - What does it mean “it is the last hour”? (This would be some time described to these believers in a previous discussion or teaching)
 - John helps to define this next by continuing how? (and just as you heard that antichrist is coming)
- These believers had already heard that “antichrist” would be coming – Notice John refers to antichrist in the singular.
 - This was not new information for these believers.
 - What else does John say about this topic? (even now many antichrists have appeared;)
 - This appears to be the new information John is bringing to the attention of these believers.
 - Now John refers to many “antichrists” in the plural.
 - Since the antichrists are appearing what is John’s conclusion? (from this we know that it is the last hour.)
- John defines “antichrist” how? 1 John 4:3, 2 John 7

1John 4:3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

2John 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

- In 1 John 4:3 John first describes the spirit that does not confess Jesus as not from

God.

- That spirit is of the antichrist.
- In 2 John 7 John describes men who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh as deceivers.
 - These deceivers are defined as antichrist.
- 1John 2:19 After defining terms how does John continue? (They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.)
 - Who are the “they”? (v.18 many antichrists)
 - The many antichrists did what? (went out from us)
 - Who are the us? (Some group John was part of)
- John has used the pronoun “we” in v.18 now switches to “us”.
 - What subset of believers had John been a part of?

1John 1:1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life —

- John is part of the apostles of the first century church who were eye witness to all the events they bring to the world.
 - There were some who had come to this group of apostles for some reason, probably to be discipled, to be taught.
- How does John continue? (but they were not *really* of us;)
 - They were not really part of the apostles sent out to the world.
 - If they had been believers what would they have done? (they would have remained with us;)
 - They separated from the true apostles of the church.
 - What did the many antichrists do? (but *they went out*,)
 - They left the apostles of the church.
 - When they renounced the true apostles what was the result? (so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.)
 - These men who declared themselves to be apostles were not true apostles or even believers.
- John does not name the men who are the false teachers, the antichrists.
 - Their names are of no importance to the first century believers or for believers today.
 - What is taught that is false, is important for believers to understand always.
- When someone is teaching what is false the true believer is to identify that person as a false teacher; John’s direct name is antichrist.
 - This has been true throughout the church age.

- This is still true for us today.
- We should not treat this lightly under cover of political correctness.
 - When there is false teaching it should be identified as such.
- v.20 What is true for the believers John is writing to? (But you have an anointing from the Holy One)
 - Who is the Holy One? (The Holy Spirit)
 - Why was this not a secret anointing? (and you all know.)
 - This is a refutation to point 2 of the Gnostic teaching that only some special men receive special revelation, John says you all have the same anointing from the Holy One.
- v.21 What is not a reason for John to write this letter? (I have not written to you because you do not know the truth,)
 - John is writing why? (but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.)
- v.22 How can the believers clearly identify these false teachers? (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.)
 - John continues this declaration of truth throughout this letter as we identified earlier.
 - The identification is denying both the Father and the Son.
 - They are eternally linked.
 - You can't have fellowship with one and not the other.
- v.23 The central tenet of false teachers is what? (Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father;)
 - The true measurement of a believer and true teacher is who? (the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.)
- Professing God only is not a profession of Christian faith, or saving faith leading to eternal life – one must be professing Jesus as Christ.
 - If one doesn't profess Christ, the writer says they are liars and antichrists; they are not teachers sent by God.
- v.24 What does John say to the believers? (As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning.)
 - What was the first thing the apostles would teach when they spoke to anyone? (The gospel of Jesus)
 - After one believes in the gospel of Jesus what is true? (If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.)
- When a believer abides in the gospel of Jesus the Son they also abide with the Father.
 - There is no second level to achieve fellowship with the Father apart from what exists in the Son.
- v.25 What is true for the believer? (This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.)

1John 2:26 These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.

1John 2:27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for 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, you abide in Him.

1John 2:28 Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

1John 2:29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

- v.26 John specifically defines why he is writing this letter how? (These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.)
 - John is very specific that his harsh words are for those trying to deceive the believers.
 - He is giving the believers clear and advance warnings about the destructiveness of these men to the church.
- v.27 What does John write as comfort to the believers? (As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you,)
 - The anointing received was from who? (the Holy Spirit)
 - The believer has received the Holy Spirit from God.
 - Where does the Holy Spirit remain? (abides in you)
 - What is not necessary for eternal life beyond the abiding Holy Spirit? (and you have no need for anyone to teach you;)
 - There is no level of higher knowledge to be achieved.
 - This is a continuation of John's refutation to point 2 of the false teaching that some achieve higher levels of knowledge and needed to be sought out for that information or special position before God.
- This is always the underlying point of false teachers – they have achieved something special in relationship to God.
 - If you want what they have with God or what they can help you get from God, you have to do that through them.
 - They have special revelations from God that no one else has or has ever had.
 - They have a special connection for healing from God
 - They have the way to use your money that you will then be blessed by God, usually with more money but often linked to giving money, opening doors in other areas, God is waiting to bless you in if you will just part with your money first.
 - They have special words or prayers, or often misquoted scriptures, to unlock earthly provisions from God, like money, jobs, peace of mind, joy, confirmation your sins are forgiven, etc...
 - The false teacher moves the object of faith from Jesus to.... "the things in the world." see v.15

- v.27 Believers have no need for others to teach them special knowledge why? (but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.)
 - Who is “His anointing”? (The Holy Spirit)
 - What does His anointing do? (teaches you about all things,)
 - The Holy Spirit is the anointing that teaches us about all things.
- v.28 John reassures these believers how? (Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.)
 - When believers see Jesus again John says we may have confidence because we abide in Him.
- John has used the term abide 10 times since verse 6; he uses it a total of 23 times in this letter.
 - When we have completed our study of this letter we should have a very clear understanding of what John means when he says we abide in Him.
- John refers to “when He appears” and “at His coming”, both of these are clear references to the believer’s resurrection that is often called the rapture within the church today.
- v.29 What is John’s conclusion? (If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.)
 - What false teaching of the Gnostics is being dealt with here? (Knowledge is superior to virtue)
- Christ’s virtue and thus any virtue we can have only comes from truly knowing Him.
 - What does this mean for believers today?
 - We have the same promise of having genuine fellowship with God the Father.
 - We have the Holy Spirit abiding in us.
 - We have this because we have received forgiveness of sins through faith in Jesus Christ.
 - We have the knowledge of God through the Word of God.
 - We have the power to overcome sin in our daily walk through life.
 - We have the discernment to identify false teaching and walk away from it.
 - We have the ability to love one another in the truest sense of the word.



1 John 3A

Chapter 3:1-10

814 Arion Parkway, #410
San Antonio, Texas 78216
210.319.5055

©2021. Verse By Verse Ministry International.
All rights reserved

versebyverseministry.org/lessons/1-john-3a

- Review of Chapter 1
 - The Word of Life is Jesus from beginning of creation.
 - Jesus brought the way to have fellowship with God producing eternal life.
 - The apostles were eye witnesses to Jesus' physical resurrection.
 - Believers have sin but should avoid sin.
- Chapter 2:
 - Jesus is our propitiation.
 - A person can not love the things of the world and God at the same time.
 - Antichrists deny Jesus is the Christ.
 - The truth leading to eternal life is found in Christ which leads us to love others and practice righteousness vs. the lie which denies Christ's deity and practice sin.
 - Be prepared to deal with false teaching and false teachers in the church.
- What are the five basic tenets of Gnosticism discussed?
 - 1. Knowledge superior to virtue
 - 2. Non-literal scripture only a select few could interpret
 - 3. God is not only creator because He couldn't create a world with sin
 - 4. Deity can't exist in flesh
 - 5. No resurrection
- Let's begin 1 John Chapter 3

1John 3:1 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

1John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

1John 3:3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

- v.1 What has God done for believers? (See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us,)
 - What does 'bestowed' mean? (presented as a gift or privilege)
 - How did God demonstrate His outpouring of love for believers? (that we would be called children of God;)
 - We are not just called children of God we are actually what? (and *such* we are)
 - In the present time we are children of God.
 - What is the result of being a child of God? (For this reason the world does not know us,)
 - Why is this true? (because it did not know Him.)

- What is 'it' referring to? (the world)
- What is true about the world? (did not know Him)
- Who is being described as the world who did not know Him? (Unbelievers)
 - The world does not know God and therefore cannot know believers as children of God.
 - Unbelievers do not have any comprehension of what this relationship is we have with God.
- v.2 What is true for believers now? (Beloved, now we are children of God,)
 - We know we are children of God now.
 - What don't we now know about this state of being children of God? (and it has not appeared as yet what we will be)
 - What does 'appeared' mean? (*to make visible, show, display or reveal*)
 - What is the 'it' referring to? (what we will be)
- Right now we do not know what it will look like to be children of God in the future.
 - The full extent of the benefit of being children of God is not displayed yet.
- What are believers waiting for? (We know that when He appears,)
 - Who is the 'He'? (Jesus)
 - When will Jesus appear to believers? (When He returns for us)
 - When does Jesus return for us? (The rapture also known as our resurrection)
- v.2 When He appears what will happen? (we will be like Him,)
 - Why is this true? (because we will see Him just as He is.)
 - How would we describe the state Jesus is in now? (Resurrected)
 - Do we see Jesus in His resurrected form now? (no)
 - John explains when we finally see Jesus in His resurrected form then we will also be in our resurrected form. See 1 Corinthians 15:51-53, Philippians 3:20-21.

1Cor. 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,

1Cor. 15:52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

1Cor. 15:53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Phil. 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

Phil. 3:21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

- What do we learn about the resurrected body? (We will be changed to imperishable and immortal, fully transformed to be like Jesus is now.)
 - The bodies we receive at the resurrection (rapture) are imperishable and immortal.
 - Our bodies will not deteriorate and will be ours forever!
 - This is the blessed hope only the Christian has about the future.
- John is directly refuting the Gnostic teaching of deity not dwelling in flesh as he declares Jesus is in human resurrected form now.
 - John is also contending with the teaching there will be no resurrection by declaring clearly “we will be like Him”; we will be resurrected as well.
- v.3 How does John continue? (And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.)
 - What is “this hope” referring back to? (v.2 We will be like Him when He appears)
 - This hope is in resurrection.
 - This hope is rooted in what? (fixed on Him)
 - Who is the Him? (Jesus)
 - Fixed on what about Him? (He is resurrected and through belief in the gospel believers will also be resurrected as v.2 says “We will be like Him when He appears”)
- v.3 When a believer lives with this hope what happens to him? (purifies himself)
 - What comparison does John use to demonstrate how pure the believer is? (just as He is pure.)
 - Who is the “He”? (Jesus)
 - When we believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ what part of a believer is purified, or without sin? (Our spirit)
 - We receive the Holy Spirit. See Ephesians 1:13-14.

Eph. 1:13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Eph. 1:14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.

- Before we received the Holy Spirit we lived with a dead spirit.
 - This dead spirit we inherited from Adam; when Adam sinned his spirit became dead.

Gen. 2:16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

Gen. 2:17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”

- Adam's physical body did not die that day but his spirit died that day.
 - This is the dead spirit every person descended from Adam inherits.
 - When Adam sinned his spirit became dead and broken fellowship with God occurred.
- God provides the way to correct this dead spirit and make our spirit pure. See Titus 3:4-7.

Titus 3:4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared,

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

Titus 3:6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

Titus 3:7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

- v.4 When did the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appear? (The gift of Jesus)
 - v.5 God saved us how? (by the Holy Spirit)
 - v.6 God saves through who? (Jesus Christ our Savior)
 - v.7 What did God do through His Grace? (We are justified)
 - When justified we are what? (heirs)
 - What are heirs? (children of God, those who inherit what the Father has)
 - What are we promised as heirs? (eternal life)
- Let us reread Titus replacing pronouns with God.

Titus 3:4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and GOD's love for mankind appeared,

Titus 3:5 GOD saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to GOD's mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

Titus 3:6 when GOD poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

Titus 3:7 so that being justified by GOD's grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

- We see over again that God is the actor
 - When someone believes in the gospel the Holy Spirit regenerates the sin nature or dead spirit to a living and eternal spirit.
 - 1John 3:3 describes this as "purified"; this is how we know John is talking about sin in the context of the spirit and not the flesh.
- Continuing in 1 John 3:4-10

1John 3:4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.

1John 3:5 You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.

1John 3:6 No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.

1John 3:7 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;

1John 3:8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

1John 3:9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

1John 3:10 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.

- v.4 What is the contrast given to one who purifies himself? (Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.)
 - The Greek word translated "lawlessness" (*anosmia*) carries an implication of wickedness; a brazen opposition to God and rejection of God's law.
 - This is again a discussion of the position of the false teachers John has been addressing.
 - Virtue is more important to God than knowledge, a dead spirit still living in its sin nature precludes virtue.
- v.5 What is Jesus' response to sin? (You know that He appeared in order to take away sins;)
 - Jesus came in the flesh and appeared to men for the express purpose of taking away sin.

John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

- 1 John 3:5 Jesus accomplished this and yet what is true for Him? (and in Him there is no sin.)
 - How did Jesus avoid being born with this inherited sin nature?
 - Jesus was not born with a sin nature, because He was conceived of the Holy Spirit not the "seed of men", which is the significance of the virgin birth of Jesus. See Matthew 1:18-21.

Matt. 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

Matt. 1:19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to

disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.

Matt. 1:20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

Matt. 1:21 “She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

- Jesus did not inherit a sin nature from Adam.
 - Jesus also never committed a sin in His life. See 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 2:21-24, Hebrews 7:26-27.

2Cor. 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1Pet. 2:21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

1Pet. 2:22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;

1Pet. 2:23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously;

1Pet. 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

Heb. 7:26 For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens;

Heb. 7:27 who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

- These verses testify to the fact Jesus did not commit any sin in His life; He was holy, innocent, undefiled.
- 1 John 3:6 Because of what Jesus accomplished what is true for the believer? (No one who abides in Him sins;)
 - Jesus came to take away our sin.
 - He bore our sins in His body on the cross.
 - He bore the consequences of our sins which was the wrath of God.
 - He offered up Himself as the sacrifice for our sins so we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
 - This righteousness is seen in the Holy Spirit in us when we become believers.
 - Our spirit is now sinless since it is the Holy Spirit. Galatians 3:13-14

Gal. 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us — for it is written, “CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE” — **Gal. 3:14** in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

- As a believer you have this perfect Holy Spirit in you now.
 - Your spirit is regenerated.
- v.6 What is the contrast of having this Holy Spirit according to John? (no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.)
 - What sins is John talking about?
 - These sins would need to be what keeps a person from having seen Him or knowing Him. See 1 Corinthians 2:14

1Cor. 2:14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

- When one abides in Him they receive the promise of the Spirit in faith and through the Spirit of God cannot sin in His spirit.
 - When one does not abide in Him the opposite is true, he does not have the Spirit of God and only the dead spirit reigns in him and thus can only sin.
- 1 John 3:7 How does John continue to address this topic? (Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;)
 - How does John address the believers? (Little children)
 - What is John’s focus? (make sure no one deceives you;)
 - John is again warning against those who were bringing false teaching to the church.
- What truth does John establish first? (the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;)
 - The believer can practice righteousness because Jesus is righteous, we can only practice what we have received from Him.
 - It might have been the false teachers were saying believers could not be righteous, or practice righteousness now.
 - John wants to make it perfectly clear that believers can practice righteousness now because they are righteous by virtue of the Holy Spirit they received and it is possible because Jesus is righteous.
- v.8 What is the contrast to those who practice righteousness from Jesus? (the one who practices sin is of the devil;)
 - There are only two kinds of people in the world; believers and unbelievers, those who are children of God and those of the devil.
 - Those of the devil will practice sin.

- What is true about the devil? (for the devil has sinned from the beginning.)
- This is confirmed by Jesus as recorded in John 8:43-44.

John 8:43 “Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word.

John 8:44 “You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

- John recorded these words of Jesus in the gospel of John and he repeats it in this letter as well.
- 1 John 3:8 What did Jesus do because of the sin of the devil? (The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.)
 - The works of the devil are too many to list but we have confirmation of the worst of his works. See Hebrews 2:14-15.

Heb. 2:14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

Heb. 2:15 and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

- The devil sinned from the beginning, the devil was a murderer from the beginning, the devil is a liar, the devil had the power of death.
 - Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil.
 - The devil no longer has the power of death.
- Do Christians still physically die? (yes)
 - What death does a Christian not experience? (Spiritual death)
 - Why are we not to fear the physical death? (We have the promise of resurrection)
- 1 John 3:9 What does John say is now true for believers because of what Jesus did? (No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.)
 - What does it mean “His seed abides in him”?
 - When one becomes a believer what abides in you? (The Holy Spirit)
 - What does it mean “one is born of God”? (Spiritually born of God, often referred to as “born again”)
 - Read John 3:1-21. Jesus speaking with Nicodemus about being born again.

John 3:1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews;

John 3:2 this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that

You do unless God is with him.”

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

John 3:4 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?”

John 3:5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

John 3:6 “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 3:7 “Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

John 3:8 “The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

John 3:9 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can these things be?”

John 3:10 Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things?

John 3:11 “Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony.

John 3:12 “If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

John 3:13 “No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man.

John 3:14 “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;

John 3:15 so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:17 “For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

John 3:18 “He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:19 “This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

John 3:20 “For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

John 3:21 “But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”

- Jesus explains to Nicodemus to be “born again” is a reference to the spiritual birth of a person.
- 1 John 3:10 John establishes it is possible for the readers of this letter to know what? (By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious:)
 - John declares the first measurement of unbelievers how? (anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God,)

- Those claiming to be Children of God, but do not practice righteousness can be identified as unbelievers.
- What is the second measurement of unbelievers? (nor the one who does not love his brother.)
 - When someone does not demonstrate love of other believers this is also a sign they are not believers.
 - John covered this earlier in this same correspondence. See 1 John 2:9

1John 2:9 The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now.

- It is clear the false teachers were doing things to demonstrate hatred towards other believers.
 - This hatred was probably focused towards the apostles and anyone who was standing against their false teaching.
 - It was a clear sign they were not of God and contrary to what they were professing they did not truly know God.
- Knowledge of God was clearly not the most important thing to achieve if it did not lead to knowing God which was demonstrated in actions.
 - This was John again dealing with this false tenet of Gnosticism.
- A believer's conduct manifests in relationship with God, in avoiding sin, and in loving fellow believers:
 - Do you KNOW God?
 - Do you have this relationship with God?
 - Do you avoid sin knowing the Holy Spirit is in you and witnesses all you think and do?
 - Do you seek forgiveness from God when you do sin?
 - Do you demonstrate love to fellow believers?



1 John 3B

Chapter 3:11-24

814 Arion Parkway, #410
San Antonio, Texas 78216
210.319.5055

©2021. Verse By Verse Ministry International.
All rights reserved

versebyverseministry.org/lessons/1-john-3b

- Review of Chapter 1:
 - The Word of Life is Jesus from beginning of creation.
 - Jesus brought the way to have fellowship with God resulting in eternal life.
 - The apostles were eye witnesses to Jesus' physical resurrection.
 - Believers have sin but should avoid sin.
- Chapter 2:
 - Jesus is our propitiation.
 - A person cannot love the things of the world and God at the same time.
 - Antichrists deny Jesus is the Christ.
 - The truth leading to eternal life is found in Christ which leads us to love others and practice righteousness vs. the lie which denies Christ's deity and practices sin.
 - Be prepared to deal with false teaching and false teachers in the church.
- What are the five basic tenets of Gnosticism discussed?
 - 1. knowledge superior to virtue
 - 2. non-literal scripture only a select few could interpret
 - 3. God is not only creator because He couldn't create a world with sin
 - 4. Deity can't exist in flesh
 - 5. No resurrection
- Chapter 3:
 - Believers are children of God.
 - We will be resurrected as Jesus was resurrected when He comes back for us.
 - The believer becomes purified like Jesus when one receives the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation when we are born again, this allows a believer to practice righteousness and love the brethren.
 - Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil.
- Continuing in 1 John 3:11-15

1John 3:11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;

1John 3:12 not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

1John 3:13 Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.

1John 3:14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

1John 3:15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

- v.11 John establishes this is not a new measurement of relationship how? (For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one

another;)

- v.12 What example is given? (not as Cain, *who* was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.)
 - John gives the example of Cain from Genesis, this underscores the point this has been a true message from the beginning.
 - Cain was of who? (was of the evil one)
 - What did he do? (slew his brother)
 - Why did he slay him? (Because his deeds were evil)
 - Cain's deeds are described as evil even before he murders his brother.
 - The contrast is also given of the brother's actions as being righteous.
 - Not only were Cain's deeds evil but he resented that his brother's deeds were righteous. See Genesis 4:3-8

Gen. 4:3 So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground.

Gen. 4:4 Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering;

Gen. 4:5 but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.

Gen. 4:6 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?

Gen. 4:7 "If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

Gen. 4:8 Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

- v.3 What did Cain do? (Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground.)
 - v 4 What did Abel do? (brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions.)
 - How was Abel's offering received? (the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering)
 - v.5 How was Cain's offering received? (for Cain and for his offering He had no regard)
 - How did Cain respond? (Cain became very angry and his countenance fell)
 - v.6 What question does God pose to Cain? ("Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?")
 - God does not expect an answer from Cain.
 - v.7 What opportunity does God give Cain to do as God required? (If you do well)
 - In Hebrew, the verse reads only "do well, be raised up".

- The LORD had regard for Abel and therefore had regard for the offering he brought to God.
- God already had regard for Abel not because of the offering but before the offering.
 - Abel had faith in God.
 - Out of this faith Abel was able to act righteously before God and this was demonstrated in the offering he made to God.
 - God did not have regard for Cain and therefore did not have regard for his offering.
- 1John 3:12 Informs us Cain was of who? (*who* was of the evil one)
 - Cain does not have faith in God and this is demonstrated in an offering that could never please God.
 - Cain is not a believer.
- Cain speaks with Abel so he knows Abel's offering was accepted.
 - What was Cain's response? (and slew his brother.)
 - Cain's response was to kill Abel.
 - What was the reason given for why Cain killed Abel? (Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.)
- The unrighteous are convicted by the acts of the righteous and the unrighteous persecute the righteous.
 - John specifically uses this event from Genesis to give an explanation of why the believers in John's day will experience persecution.
- v.13 John cautions the believers how? (Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.)
 - John warns believers that when their deeds are righteous the unbelievers of the world will hate them.
 - This was true from the beginning of creation and has continued to be the experience of believers throughout the ages.
 - Have you ever experienced this truth in your life?
 - We need to be prepared for this reaction from the world!
- v.14 What is true for believers? (We know that we have passed out of death into life,)
 - What part of death has the believer experienced the transition into life? (Spiritual)
 - Believers have a new Spirit that will live eternally.
 - How is this new life demonstrated? (because we love the brethren.)
 - What else can be true? (He who does not love abides in death.)
 - The person unable to love the brethren still abides in the dead spirit, the one he was born with.
 - What standard is the author establishing? (hating another believer demonstrates someone who is an unbeliever)
 - John spends time on this description of Cain and Abel to highlight what's going on in the current situation in the church.
- v.15 John emphasizes the significance of this hate how? (Everyone who hates his

brother is a murderer;)

- How does hate equal murder? (To truly hate is to wish another dead)
 - Just because someone has not actually committed the action does not mean they have not done so in their heart, from God's perspective there is no difference. See Matthew 5:27-28

Matt. 5:27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY’;

Matt. 5:28 but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

- Jesus said if a man lusts after a woman he has committed the act of adultery in his heart.
 - This is also true when a believer hates another believer, he wishes him dead and in his heart he has already committed murder.
- 1John 3:15 What is true about a believer who hates his brother? (and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.)
 - Hate in a heart happens because they don't know Christ, they do not have the Holy Spirit abiding in them therefore they have no eternal life.
 - Does this verse mean someone who has committed murder can't be forgiven and receive eternal life? (no, we know there is no sin outside of God's forgiveness)
 - The description is of someone, at the time of hating, demonstrating there is no love so there is not a relationship with God at that moment.
- Let's continue in 1 John:

1John 3:16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

1John 3:17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

1John 3:18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

1John 3:19 We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him

1John 3:20 in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.

1John 3:21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;

1John 3:22 and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

- v.16 How does a believer respond to his brother? (We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.)
 - Who is John referring to when he says “He laid down His life for us”? (Jesus)

Rom. 5:6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Rom. 5:7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die.

Rom. 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Rom. 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

- Love is defined for us in that Christ loved us enough to die for us even though we were sinners.
 - The contrast is established that Cain took a righteous life in hate while Jesus sacrificed His righteous life for sinners in love.
- 1 John 3:16 What are believers to do then? (and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren)
 - We should love the brethren to that same level, being willing to die for fellow believers
 - Was physical death a real possibility for these believers? (Yes)
- v.17 Outside of the ultimate sacrifice of death how else can this love of the brethren be demonstrated? (But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?)
 - What are the world's goods? (Physical things like food, shelter, clothing)
 - What can happen to a believer having the world's good? (sees his brother in need)
 - What can a believer do who has the world's goods and sees his brother in need? (closes his heart against him)
 - What does it mean one 'sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him'?
 - To see a need would mean it is evident there is something essential lacking.
 - A natural response in one's heart is to help those in need, this can be true in unbelievers as well.
 - When the response of someone is to close their heart, or have no desire to help someone obviously in need, what is the conclusion John says we should make? (how does the love of God abide in him?)
- Again John is putting actions to the test and declaring those who declare themselves to be children of God and yet do not help believers in need, they should reevaluate their hearts.
 - What sacrifices are you willing to make for other believers?
 - John presents this as a way to distinguish between those who are of faith and the false teachers among them.
- v.18 What does John say next? (Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.)
 - Who is John addressing? (Little children)
 - Who are the 'little children'? (Believers)

- What are believers to not simply to do? (not love with word or with tongue,)
 - Is John suggesting believers should not say loving things to each other? (no)
- We know this is not true so John gives his conclusion by saying how are believers to respond in love? (deed and truth)
 - John is emphasizing actions over words alone.
 - I have said in the past, “I can’t hear you because your actions are speaking louder than your words”.
 - This again is dealing with the Gnostics who claimed they could just have head knowledge without any regard for how they lived in the community of believers.
- v.19 When a believer responds with deed and truth what is evident? (We will know by this that we are of the truth,)
 - What does it mean "we will know by this"? (We will possess a way to have knowledge of something, a confirmation of something)
 - What will we have knowledge of? (we are of the truth)
- 1 John 2:20 in the NIV is rendered:

1John 2:20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.

- In the NASB we read:

1John 2:20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

- The translators of the NIV wanted to give the object of what we would know because we have the anointing from the Holy One.
 - The Holy One is the Holy Spirit.
 - John gives reference throughout the gospel of John of this principle. See John 14:16-2, 15:26-27, 16:13, 18:37.

John 14:16 “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

John 14:17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

John 14:18 “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

John 14:19 “After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also.

John 14:20 “In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

John 14:21 “He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him

and will disclose Myself to him.”

John 15:26 “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me,

John 15:27 and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

John 16:13 “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

John 18:37 Therefore Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

- What did we learn about the Holy Spirit?
 - The Holy Spirit abides in us, testifies about who Jesus is, guides us in all truth, allows us to hear the voice of God.
- 1 John 3:19 When John says “we are of the truth” he is saying we can only do these things if we have the Spirit of truth, which is the Holy Spirit living in us.
 - By this we will know we are of God; this is something we know about ourselves.
 - Why can we still know we are of God? (and will assure our heart before Him)
 - The Holy Spirit will assure our heart before God.
- v.20 When do we need this assurance most? (in whatever our heart condemns us;)
 - What would cause this feeling of condemnation? (v.18 that we would only speak words of support without actually doing anything about the needs with our actions)
 - What is greater than our feeling of condemnation? (for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.)
 - God is greater than our heart, is bigger than the emotions that lead us.
 - God actually knows all things; He is not waiting to see how we feel about anything.
- This high standard of demonstrated love for the brethren is how God convicts believers to know their own imperfections.
- Because God is greater than our heart (emotions, feelings), and He knows all things, He does not leave us in that condemnation. See Romans 8:1-2

Rom. 8:1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Rom. 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the

law of sin and of death.

- This is what Peter experienced in John 21:17

John 21:17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Tend My sheep.

- Peter knew Jesus knew Peter loved Him because he says, “You know all things.” Peter knew Jesus did not need to ask the question because He already knew all things.
- 1 John 3:21 What allows confidence without question? (Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;)
 - When we know we have responded to others’ needs we then do not feel guilty or condemned and we approach God with confidence.
- v.22 What can believers do with this confidence before God? (and whatever we ask we receive from Him,)
 - What allows our requests to be granted? (because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.)
 - We are doing God’s will when we are living by His commandments and doing the things that are pleasing in His sight.
 - God grants requests that are in His will!
 - John confirms this later in 1 John 5:14

1John 5:14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

- Back to 1 John 3:23-24

1John 3:23 This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

1John 3:24 The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

- v.23 John defines God’s commandment how? (This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.)
 - To believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ is to believe the gospel.
 - To love one another is to live out the gospel.
- v.24 What additional encouragement does John give? (The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him.)

- How is this assurance possible? (We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.)
 - When we have the Holy Spirit we know He abides in us, because that is HOW He abides in us.
 - What does abide mean?
 - In the Greek (*menō*) meaning a to stay, abide, remain: appears in the New Testament as —abide(18), abides(27), abiding(6), await(1), continue(3), endures(1), lasting(1), living(1), remain(20), remained(6), remaining(1), remains(7), stand(1), stay(10), stayed(11), staying(3), waiting(1).
 - What have we learned so far it means for Him to abide in us?

1John 2:6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

1John 2:10 The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

1John 2:14 I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

1John 2:24 As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

1John 2:27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for 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, you abide in Him.

1John 2:28 Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

1John 3:6 No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.

1John 3:9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

1John 3:24 The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.



1 John 4

Chapter 4:

814 Arion Parkway, #410
San Antonio, Texas 78216
210.319.5055

©2021. Verse By Verse Ministry International.
All rights reserved

versebyverseministry.org/lessons/1-john-4

- Review of Chapter 1:
 - The Word of Life is Jesus from beginning of creation.
 - Jesus brought the way to have fellowship with God resulting in eternal life.
 - The apostles were eye witnesses to Jesus' physical resurrection.
 - Believers have sin but should avoid sin.
- Chapter 2:
 - Jesus is our propitiation.
 - A person cannot love the things of the world and God at the same time.
 - Antichrists deny Jesus is the Christ.
 - The truth leading to eternal life is found in Christ which leads us to love others and practice righteousness vs. the lie which denies Christ's deity and practice sin.
 - Be prepared to deal with false teaching and false teachers in the church.
- What are the five basic tenets of Gnosticism discussed?
 - 1. knowledge superior to virtue
 - 2. non-literal scripture only a select few could interpret
 - 3. God is not only creator because He couldn't create a world with sin
 - 4. Deity can't exist in flesh
 - 5. No resurrection
- Chapter 3:
 - Believers are children of God.
 - We will be resurrected as Jesus was resurrected when He comes back for us.
 - The part of a believer that becomes purified like Jesus is in the spirit as one receives the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation when we are born again, this allows a believer to practice righteousness and love the brethren.
 - Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil.
 - Believers are to love one another and demonstrate this in actions of sacrifice even to death as Jesus did.
- Begin in 1John 4:1-6

1John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1John 4:2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;

1John 4:3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

1John 4:4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

1John 4:5 They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and

the world listens to them.

1John 4:6 We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

- v.1 Who is John addressing? (Beloved)
 - What are the beloved? (Believers)
 - What warning does John give the believers? (do not believe every spirit,)
 - What spirit is John referring to? (The spirit that is inside a person)
 - John is continuing a discussion about the spirit within a person. See 1 John 3:24.

1John 3:24 The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

- John has spent time exploring the Spirit inside believers and now moves to a discussion of the spirit world in general and says, do not believe every Spirit is the same.
 - What does John tell the believers to do? (but test the spirits to see whether they are from God,)
 - Why do believers need to test the spirits? (because many false prophets have gone out into the world.)
 - What type of spirit would take the false prophets out into the world? (not the Spirit of God)
 - The conclusion John makes is that the false prophets would not have the Spirit of God.
- v.2 What is the test to be applied to the spirit world? (By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;)
 - Those who have the Spirit of God, known as the Holy Spirit will say Jesus Christ came to men as incarnate and was sent by God.
- v.3 What is the opposite result this test can expose? (and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God;)
 - Where does this spirit come from? (this is the spirit of the antichrist,)
 - The confession of the spirit in someone is of the utmost importance to believers.
 - If they deny Jesus is the Christ, that is the spirit of antichrist.
 - Keep in mind many false religions don't blatantly deny Jesus is the Christ, instead they chose not to confess or acknowledge Jesus is the Christ.
 - Both of these responses demonstrates the spirit of antichrist.
 - What did John acknowledge believers knew about this spirit? (of which you have heard that it is coming,)

- John said it is not only coming but what else? (and now it is already in the world.)
 - John makes it clear this early church had already been made aware of this coming of the spirit of antichrist.
 - Now John clearly says this spirit is now already in the world.
- v.4 John encourages the believers how? (You are from God, little children, and have overcome them;)
 - Who are the “them”? (those with the spirit of the antichrist)
 - Those referred to in v.1; the many false prophets that have gone out into the world.
 - How had the believers overcome them? (because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.)
 - Who is the ‘He’ in the believers? (The Spirit of God)
 - Who is the ‘he’ who is in the world? (The spirit of the antichrist)
- v.5 What is true about those with the spirit of antichrist? (They are from the world;)
 - People of the world have what view point? (therefore they speak as from the world,)
 - What is the result? (and the world listens to them.)
 - Unbelievers will communicate with the world successfully because they have the same desires springing from the same spirit inside them.
 - This is confirmed for us in 1 Corinthians 2:11-14.

1Cor. 2:11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

1Cor. 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

1Cor. 2:13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

1Cor. 2:14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

- This is a confirmation that God’s thoughts are known only by those who have the Holy Spirit.
 - Those who do not have the thoughts of God because they don’t have the Spirit of God can be known by those with the Spirit of God.
- 1 John 4:6 What does John say is true in contrast to the world? (We are from God; he who knows God listens to us;)
 - John says the opposite is true how? (he who is not from God does not listen to us.)
 - What is the outcome of this understanding? (By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.)

- John makes a definitive declaration here by stating those who are opposed to what the apostles taught were clearly not believers.
 - These men will claim Jesus did not come in the flesh sent from the Father.
 - This is a clear refutation to the Gnostic's teaching that deity does not exist in the flesh.
 - This also is true for any other false teaching with this denial or omission.

1John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1John 4:8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

1John 4:9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

1John 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1John 4:12 No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

1John 4:13 By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

- v.7 What does John call the believers to do? (Beloved, let us love one another,)
 - Who is the source of this love? (for love is from God;)
 - What is true about believers who love one another? (and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.)
 - To be born of God is to be a believer and, as a believer, has a relationship with God (knows Him).
 - The true knowledge of God is demonstrated in the virtue of love.
- v.8 What is true when one professing to be a believer does not love one another? (The one who does not love does not know God,)
 - Why is this true? (for God is love.)
- v.9 Because God is love, what is true? (By this the love of God was manifested in us,)
 - God's love can reside in us because of what? (that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.)
 - The term "His only begotten Son" can also be translated "His one and only" (NET and NIV)
 - "One and only" translates *monogenh*, "only born one", which is also used in John 1:14, 3:16.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that

whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

- Jesus is the only born one of God; there will be no one else, there is no other way the Father is bringing men to Himself.
- 1 John 4:10 John gives an example of what love looks like how? (In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.)
 - What does John say was true first? (not that we loved God)
 - Love did not begin within us towards God and then He responded to us in some way.
 - There are many who would claim to love God without a true understanding that it is impossible for us to love God on our own initiative.
 - What was true about God's love first? (but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.)
 - We covered the propitiation of our sins in detail in 1 John Lesson 2A; here is the conclusion after looking at what the scriptures teach about propitiation.
 - Only the death of an innocent man can produce a perfect blood sacrifice to satisfy God's justice.
 - God accepted a substitutionary payment of Jesus' death with His blood in place of our death and blood for our sin.
 - This was completed though Jesus and when we believe this, which can only happen by the gift of faith, we are redeemed to God.
 - The death of Jesus with His blood applied for us IS a propitiation.
 - John's point here is that God provided this out of His love for us – not that it was a response to our love for God. See also Romans 5:8

Rom. 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- Unbelievers can have a desire for eternal things and in religious efforts might feel a love as man for God, they like the idea of love for God.
 - This is expressed in many ways that ultimately focus on self-gratification; how it makes man feel.
 - True love requires a sacrifice of self as God demonstrated by sacrificing His Son for us while we were still sinners.
 - It is a subtle difference but the ultimate distinction in comprehending a love for God.
- 1 John 4:11 This is the example of love provided by God, so what should believers do? (Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.)
 - If God loved us without regard for our love first, we should love one another in the same manner.
 - This is the sacrificial love a believer is able to express for other believers because we have the love of God in us.

- v.12 What is a truth about God? (No one has seen God at any time;)
 - John also describes this in his gospel in John 1:18

John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.

- 1 John 4:12 What way has God provided for men to see God? (if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.)
 - When God abides in us His love is demonstrated in us as we love one another.
 - God's love is perfected when it is replicated in us.
 - True Love is not an emotion it is an action.
 - What do we do to show love for one another?
- v.13 Why are we able to love one another? (By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.)
 - It is only because we have His Spirit (Holy Spirit) in us that we are able to love one another. See Romans 5:5

Rom. 5:5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

- A believer knows he abides in God when he can love other believers with the love God has poured into his heart through the Spirit.

1John 4:14 We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

1John 4:15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

1John 4:16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

1John 4:17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

1John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

1John 4:19 We love, because He first loved us.

1John 4:20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

1John 4:21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

- v.14 No one has seen God but John says what? (We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.)

- This is what John said in the first three verses of Chapter 1, We have seen the Son.
- 1 John 4:14 The Son is to be what? (the Savior of the world.)
 - We can only understand the sacrifice of God for our salvation through faith.
 - It is because we have seen this we can testify to the world as a witness.
- v.15 For those who have not seen with their own eyes they can still do what? (Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.)
 - Only those who abide in God and God in them will confess Jesus is the Son of God.
- v.16 How is the abiding of God in someone demonstrated? (We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us.)
 - What are the two things true about God's love for the believer? (We know and believed)
 - This is because God is what? (God is love,)
 - When is the result? (and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.)
 - Only those who abide in God and God in them can demonstrate God's love.
- v.17 What is John's conclusion from vv.15-16? (By this, love is perfected with us,)
 - What is "this" referring to? (Confessing Jesus is the Son of God and demonstrating God's love)
 - When we do these things what else is true for the believer? (so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment;)
 - What is the day of judgement? See Matthew 10:15, 2 Peter 2:6-9, 3:7

Matt. 10:15 "Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city.

2Pet. 2:6 and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter;

2Pet. 2:7 and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men

2Pet. 2:8 (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds),

2Pet. 2:9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,

2Pet. 3:7 But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

- "The day of judgement" is always used in reference to the day for punishment of the unrighteous and destruction of ungodly men.
- 1 John 4:17 What would it mean for one to have confidence in that day? (They will not receive punishment or destruction in that day)

- Why can believers have confidence? (because as He is, so also are we in this world.)
 - Who is the “He”? (Jesus)
 - What is meant by, “as He is”? (As Jesus is)
- What is true about Jesus now? (Righteous and resurrected)
 - The believer knows he will not endure punishment or destruction in the day of judgement because he confesses Jesus.
 - Believers have full confidence of this, there is no doubt!
- v.18 What else is true for the believer when love is perfected in them? (There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear,)
 - Why does one have fear? (because fear involves punishment,)
 - The punishment brought when? (the day of judgement)
 - What is true for one who has fear of the day of judgement? (and the one who fears is not perfected in love.)
 - Those who do not know the love of God, through Jesus, know the fear of the day of judgement.
 - There is no fear of this day in the one who knows the love of God, is a believer.
- v.19 What is true for believers? (We love,)
 - Why do we love? (because He first loved us.)
 - There is a difference in man’s natural ability to love and the divine love given and expressed from God
 - A believer can only express this divine love because we have received it from God first and now have His Spirit in us.
- v.20 What is a test to know which of these someone is? (If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar;)
 - A believer cannot claim to love God and hate the brethren, just like he cannot claim to know God but disobey His commands or claim to know God but deny the truth of Him sending His Son.
 - Why is this true? (for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.)
 - Why is the love of the brethren a test for the abiding love of God? (The brethren are able to be seen)
 - The brethren are here in this world now to receive the love of God that is in the believer now.
 - When one claims to have the love of God in them but can’t demonstrate that love to a believer they testify to the truth that the love of God does not abide in them.
- v.21 What did John say because of this truth? (And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.)
 - These words also come to us from Jesus Himself in Mark 12:28-31.

Mark 12:28 One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

Mark 12:29 “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.’

Mark 12:30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’

Mark 12:31 The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

- The Jewish leaders often tried to answer this question, debating among themselves when discussing the Mosaic Law.
 - They believed all the law was binding but they felt some were of more importance than others.
 - There were those who would try to find a way to sum up the most significant laws with a summation found in other laws.
 - The leaders of the day for Israel were trying to trap Jesus in any answer He would give and this is identified in more detail in Mark 12:13 and 18.

Mark 12:13 Then they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Him in order to trap Him in a statement.

Mark 12:18 Some Sadducees (who say that there is no resurrection) came to Jesus, and began questioning Him,

- Mark 12:28 What did this teacher of the law notice about what Jesus had just answered for these two groups of men sent to trap Jesus? (Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer,)
 - The question the teacher of the law put before Jesus could have been a trap or a sincere question, but in hope to receive a correct answer.
 - He asks Jesus Which (*poios*, “what kind of”) commandment is the most important (*prōtos*, “first”) of them all?
 - Jesus answers by quoting from Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

Deut. 6:4 “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!

Deut. 6:5 “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Deut. 6:6 “These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.

Deut. 6:7 “You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

Deut. 6:8 “You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as

frontals on your forehead.

Deut. 6:9 “You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

- Israel’s God is defined how? (the LORD is one!)
 - There is a specific God being spoken of here.
- v.5 Now that who God is has been clearly defined what are the people of God to do? (You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.)
 - Now the identity of God moves from “our God” to “the Lord your God”.
 - This God is to be loved how? (with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.)
- The question put forth to Jesus was, of all the commandments which is the most important.
 - The teacher of the law wanted to know which one commandment was the most important, but Jesus gave a second commandment as well, “Love your neighbor as yourself”. This is also found in the Old Testament in Leviticus 19:18.

Lev. 19:18 ‘You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.

- When we studied this back in Chapter 2 it was pointed out that after this answer the teacher asked who his neighbor would be.
 - Jesus tells the parable of the “good Samaritan”, and ends with these two verses.

Luke 10:36 “Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers’ hands?”

Luke 10:37 And he said, “The one who showed mercy toward him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do the same.”

- Paul gives the same conclusion in Galatians 5:13-14.

Gal. 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Gal. 5:14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.”

- Paul makes it clear we are to demonstrate love for one another by serving one another.
 - This will be contrary to our fleshly desire as we are drawn to serve ourselves first.
- Both Jesus and Paul use the same standard when determining what love we already

have in ourselves that can be used to turn to the brethren in love

- They both say in the way you “love yourself”, use that to love the brethren.
 - There is a false teaching in the church today that says we must learn to love ourselves first before we can love others the way God desires for us to love others.
 - There is nowhere in scriptures this teaching can be found.
 - God is always about getting us to focus outside ourselves.
- Here in 1 John 4 we are reminded that the first circle of focus outside ourselves is towards God and then secondly towards the brethren.
 - What ways is God revealing to you to make Him first in your life.
 - In your heart?
 - In your soul?
 - With all your might?
 - What sacrifices will be necessary to lead you to this type of sacrificial life.
 - What ways is God revealing to you to love the brethren as you already love yourself.
 - What ways are you being encouraged to serve the body of Christ?
 - These two are interconnected; you can’t claim to love God and then not love the brethren.



1 John 5

Chapter 5:1-21

814 Arion Parkway, #410
San Antonio, Texas 78216
210.319.5055

©2021. Verse By Verse Ministry International.
All rights reserved

versebyverseministry.org/lessons/1-john-5

- Review of Chapter 1:
 - The Word of Life is Jesus from beginning of creation.
 - Jesus brought the way to have fellowship with God resulting in eternal life.
 - The apostles were eye witnesses to Jesus' physical resurrection.
 - Believers have sin but should avoid sin.
- Chapter 2:
 - Jesus is our propitiation.
 - A person cannot love the things of the world and God at the same time.
 - Antichrists deny Jesus is the Christ.
 - The truth leading to eternal life is found in Christ which leads us to love others and practice righteousness vs. the lie which denies Christ's deity and practices sin.
 - Be prepared to deal with false teaching and false teachers in the church.
- What are the five basic tenets of Gnosticism discussed?
 - 1. knowledge superior to virtue
 - 2. non-literal scripture only a select few could interpret
 - 3. God is not only creator because He couldn't create a world with sin
 - 4. Deity can't exist in flesh
 - 5. No resurrection
- Chapter 3:
 - Believers are children of God.
 - We will be resurrected as Jesus was resurrected when He comes back for us.
 - The part of a believer that becomes purified like Jesus is in the spirit as one receives the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation when we are born again, this allows a believer to practice righteousness and love the brethren.
 - Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil.
 - Believers are to love one another and demonstrate this in actions of sacrifice even to death as Jesus did.
- Chapter 4:
 - Believers are to test the spirit in someone to identify false teachers.
 - The test is those who confess Jesus Christ came in the flesh and was God have the Holy Spirit, those who do not confess this have the spirit of antichrist.
 - Those with the Holy Spirit will love the brethren sacrificially.
- Finishing tonight with Chapter 5

1John 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.

1John 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.

1John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His

commandments are not burdensome.

1John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.

1John 5:5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

- v.1 What declarative statement does John continue with? (Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.)
 - How is Jesus described? (the Christ)
 - This is a very specific name used in declaring the coming Messiah of the Jews.
 - Jesus declared himself to be the Christ. John 4:25-26

John 4:25 The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.”

John 4:26 Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.”

- The disciples declared Jesus to be the Christ. Matthew 16:15-17

Matt. 16:15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Matt. 16:16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Matt. 16:17 And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

- In the early church this was the focus of the gospel especially to the Jews. Acts 9:22, 18:5.

Acts 9:22 Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

Acts 18:5 When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.

- This Jesus was the promised Messiah of the Old Testament referred to as the Christ.
 - Everything they needed to know was already provided in their scriptures.
- 1 John 5:1 Those who believed that Jesus was indeed the promised Messiah (The Christ) were what? (born of God.)
 - This person is a believer.
 - What else demonstrates the heart of a believer? (and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him)
 - Who is the “child born of Him”? (Jesus)

- Believers accept the truth about who the Messiah is
 - The believer will love the Father and the son born of Him.
- v.2 What is John's next statement? (By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.)
 - What are the believers to do? (love God and observe His commandments)
 - When a person loves God and observes His commandments what is true? (By this we know that we love the children of God)
 - Believers can know they love the brethren when they love God and observe His commandments.
 - The commandment to love your neighbor as yourself will take care of this.
- v.3 How does John define love? (For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.) See 1 Samuel 15:22

1Sam. 15:22 Samuel said,

**“Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices
As in obeying the voice of the LORD?
Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,
And to heed than the fat of rams.**

- The connection between love for God and obedience is to demonstrate this is not a feeling of love, but true love demonstrated in action.
 - When a believer loves God he willingly desires to obey His commandments.
 - This is a demonstration to God of the love one has for God.
 - To the unbeliever, God's commandments are unnatural and difficult or even burdensome.
- 1 John 5:4 Why can a believer love and obey God? (For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.)
 - The verse begins with what? (For whatever is born of God)
 - The verse does not begin with whoever.
 - You have to read to the end of the verse to find the object.
 - What is the “whatever” referring to? (our faith)
 - Our faith is what needs to be born of God.
 - That faith then does what? (overcomes the world)
 - How is the faith described? (this is the victory that has overcome the world)
 - What is the object of this faith that has overcome the world? (v.1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ)
- v.5 John clarifies the overcomer how? (Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?)
 - The overcomer believes Jesus is the Christ and is the Son of God.

1John 5:6 This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

1John 5:7 For there are three that testify:

1John 5:8 the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

1John 5:9 If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son.

1John 5:10 The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son.

1John 5:11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

1John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

- v.6 What does John clarify about this Jesus? (This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.)
 - Who is the 'One' referring to? (Jesus Christ)
 - John says Jesus came by what? (water and blood)
 - How and when did Jesus come by water? (Baptism by John)
 - In Acts we learn that whoever the new apostle selected had to be with Jesus from the time of His baptism to His resurrection. Acts 1:21-22

Acts 1:21 Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

Acts 1:22 beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

- What important event occurred for Jesus at the time of this baptism? Acts 10:36-38

Acts 10:36 You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

Acts 10:37 You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—

Acts 10:38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

- John also testifies to this event in John 1:32

John 1:32 John testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out

of heaven, and He remained upon Him.

- The baptism by water is understood to be the time of baptism by John the Baptist where the Spirit came and remained with Jesus.
 - What is the baptism of blood? Romans 6:4

Rom. 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

- Jesus referred to His death as a baptism as well. Mark 10:38-39.

Mark 10:38 But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?”

Mark 10:39 They said to Him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you shall drink; and you shall be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized.

- The baptism of blood was accomplished through the crucifixion of Jesus.
 - Jesus was speaking to James and John.
 - James was the first apostle to die as a martyr. See Acts 12:1-2
 - John was the last apostle to die.
- 1 John 5:6 John continues how? (not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood.)
 - John says it is this Jesus, the Christ, who experienced both the baptism of water when the Holy Spirit came upon Him all the way through the crucifixion when the Holy Spirit was still with Him.
 - The baptism of the Spirit at water baptism and the baptism of blood at the crucifixion are authenticated facts bearing witness to the truth of an incarnate Jesus.
 - Who does John say testifies to this? (It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.)
 - It is helpful to understand this was a refutation of a false teaching John is contending with.
 - Some false teaching at that time said “the Christ” descended upon Jesus at baptism but left Him at the crucifixion.
 - The identity of “the Christ” then becomes the Holy Spirit and not the man Jesus.
 - John counters by saying it is the Holy Spirit that testifies to the truth that “the Christ” is Jesus.
 - Water and blood become the evidence John is using to describe the

incarnate Jesus.

- vv.7-8 John continues with more evidence to validate his point how? (For there are three that testify: v.8 the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.)

John 1:32 Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.

John 1:33 I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’

John 1:34 I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God.”

- Because Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit, the Spirit is a testimony to Jesus being the Son of God, the Christ.

Matt. 3:16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.

Matt. 3:17 And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

- At the water baptism when the Spirit comes on Jesus, God testifies that Jesus is His Son.
 - In this the water testifies to Jesus being the One who came, the Christ.

Luke 9:28 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray.

Luke 9:29 As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.

Luke 9:30 Two men, Moses and Elijah,

Luke 9:31 appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.

Luke 9:32 Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

Luke 9:33 As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what he was saying.)

Luke 9:34 While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud.

Luke 9:35 A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.”

- v.31 says “They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem”; this is concerning the crucifixion.

- Immediately after the crucifixion is being discussed God testifies to Jesus being His Son.
 - Notice God says “whom I have chosen”.
 - Jesus was chosen for this event that has not taken place yet.

John 12:27 “Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.

John 12:28 Father, glorify your name!” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.”

John 12:29 The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

- God speaks to Jesus immediately before the crucifixion and says, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again”
 - What is “it” referring to? (I came to this hour)
 - What is “this hour”? (The crucifixion)
 - God testifies He has glorified Jesus to come to this hour, put His Spirit in Jesus at the water baptism and is going to glorify Jesus again when the crucifixion is done with His Spirit in Jesus.
- 1 John 5:9 Men can say and believe something because they have heard it from another man – John makes what comparison of this? (If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater;)
 - God is to be believed more than the testimony of man.
 - How does John conclude? (for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son.)
 - God Himself testified concerning Jesus.
 - What did God testify? Matt 3:17 (This is my Son), Luke 9:35 (This is my Son), John 12:27-29. (His name had been glorified and will be glorified) In Jesus.
- 1 John 5v10 What is true for the one who believes this testimony of God about His son? (The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself;)
 - The one who believes Jesus is the Son of God believes Jesus is The Christ
 - The one who believes Jesus is The Christ has what or who inside himself? (The Holy Spirit)
 - The testimony of being a Son of God is the Holy Spirit, both for Jesus and for men.
 - What is the opposite of this truth? (the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son.)
 - One who does not believe in the testimony of God concerning His Son does not have the testimony in himself, does not have the Holy Spirit in himself and is not a believer.
- v.11 John gives insight of this testimony how? (And the testimony is this, that God has

given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.)

- God's testimony is that He has given believers eternal life.
 - How is this eternal life given? (this life is in His Son.)
- v.12 The simple truth is what? (He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.)
 - We cannot think of eternal life apart from the Son.
 - It is impossible to have the one without the other.

1John 5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

1John 5:14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

1John 5:15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

- v.13 Who does John clarify he is talking to? (These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God,)
 - What do we call those who believe in the name of the Son of God? (Believers)
 - What does John say to believers? (so that you may know that you have eternal life)
 - Assurance of salvation for believers is important, especially if there are false teachers putting that security into question.
- v.14 What else does John say to the believers? (This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.)
 - Who is the Him? (v.11 God has given us...)
 - How do we ask for things from God? (Prayer)
 - When a believer prays for anything according to His will what is the promise? (He hears us)
- v.15 How does John continue? (And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.)
 - When a believer has asked for something that is in God's will then God hears the believer.
 - God not only hears but the believer will have the request answered.
 - This does not mean the believer will see the request answered as it may happen outside of the knowledge of the believer.
 - God will always grant His will to be accomplished.
 - Notice the believer is still to seek to know God's will.
 - The believer is also to still seek the request from God, meaning the believer is still to pray to God about the request.

1John 5:16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he

shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make request for this.

1John 5:17 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death.

- v.16 John continues discussing prayer for the believer and addresses what? (If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death.)
 - When a believers sees what? (sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death,)
 - What kind of sin does not lead to death? (Any sin committed by a believer)
 - All sin is forgiven for a believer.
 - This assumes the death is in regards to eternal death not physical death.
 - When a believer sees a brother, a fellow believer, committing sin we are to ask for what? (God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death)
 - What does it mean “for him give life”
 - To give life can be an eternal understanding.
 - However the believer already has eternal life so it would make more sense that the prayer for the believer is to remove the sin that is talking about life in some manner in the temporal sense.
 - We might say take sin away so the believer can live a more abundant life, or abiding life or virtuous life.
 - What is the contrast John puts forth next? (There is a sin leading to death;)
 - What is this sin John has been discussing that can lead to death? (Not believing the testimony of God concerning His Son, or unbelief) Ephesians 2:1-5

Eph. 2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

Eph. 2:2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

Eph. 2:3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

Eph. 2:4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,

Eph. 2:5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

- We are all dead in this sin before God made us alive with Christ by grace through faith
- 1 John 5:17 What does John say a believer should not do in regards to the sin of unbelief? (I do not say that he should make request for this.)
 - A believer cannot ask God to just forgive this sin of unbelief.

- What should all believers pray for as a request from God concerning all unbelievers? (That they would believe)
 - Believers can pray God will grant the grace and mercy of faith to believe but one cannot be forgiven the sin of unbelief.
- v.17 How does John continue? (All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death.)
 - What sin does not lead to eternal death? (The sin of a believer)
 - When a believer commits sin it does not lead to eternal death but it is still sin.

1John 5:18 We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.

1John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

1John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

1John 5:21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

- v.18 John reaffirms what first? (We know that no one who is born of God sins;)
 - Who is one who is born of God? (A believer)
 - Where does a believer not sin? (In his spirit)
 - Why does a believer not sin? (but He who was born of God keeps him,)
 - Who is the “He who was born of God”? (Jesus)
 - John already gave the testimony that this was truth by the Spirit, and water and blood.
 - What is true for the believer? (and the evil one does not touch him.)
 - Who is the evil one? (Satan)
 - In what way is a believer assured the evil one cannot touch him? (Spiritually, eternally)
- v.19 What do believers know to be true? (We know that we are of God,)
 - What is the contrast? (and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.)
 - Who is the whole world? (Unbelievers)
 - What is true for unbelievers? (lies in the power of the evil one.)
- v.20 When we are of God and not the evil one what do we know? (And we know that the Son of God has come,)
 - The Christ had come.
 - What has He given us? (and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true;)
 - Because the Christ has come we now can understand who God is through the Holy Spirit. See 1 Corinthians 2:11-14.

1Cor. 2:11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

1Cor. 2:12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

1Cor. 2:13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

1Cor. 2:14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

- We can know God because He gave us His Spirit to know Him.
- 1 John 5:20 Why can we understand who God is? (and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ.)
 - We are in Jesus now.
 - What is revealed to us who have Jesus in us? (This is the true God and eternal life.)
 - This relationship of knowing the true God is happening now and will continue with our eternal life.
- v.21 What is John's final warning? (Little children, guard yourselves from idols.)
 - Who is John speaking to? (Believers)
 - What are believers to do? (guard yourselves from idols.)
 - The term idols means "false gods"
 - Any movement to worshipping another God without a complete understanding of the true God revealed through the Spirit because of Jesus is idolatry.
 - There is knowing and worshipping the one true God and then there is everything else!
- John writes this letter to refute the lies of the false teachers
 - In doing this John accomplishes many things for the encouragement of the believers.
- John has written this letter to encourage believers that they have all they need in Jesus.
 - John reiterates who Jesus is and what He is to the believer, The Christ, the propitiation for our sin and this is testified to by men, the Holy Spirit and God the Father.
 - We are Sons of God, we have forgiveness of sin, we have eternal life, we can live victorious over sin and can love other believers.