

## **A Study of 1, 2, and 3 John**

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### **1 John 1**

### **Lesson 1**

### **Chapter 1:1-3**

### **Who Do You Fellowship With?**

- I. Introduction
  - A. Who Was John?
    1. His father
      - a) Zebedee
        - (1) *Matt. 4:21 – Fishermen*
        - (2) They had a family fishing business
    2. He left the family business to follow the Lord - Mark 1:20
    3. He was a business partner with Peter - Luke 5:1-2; 9-10
    4. The business consisted of at least two ships.
    5. John's personality
      - a) He probably had a fiery disposition – Mark 3:17
        - (1) He and his brother James nicknamed Boanerges – “Sons of thunder”
      - b) He was intolerant - Mark 9:38
      - c) He was vindictive - Luke 9:51-54
      - d) He was ambitious – Mark 10:35-37
      - e) He was the beloved disciple – John 13:23
      - f) He learned about love from the Lord – 1 John 2:9-10
        - (1) 1 John 3:14-18
        - (2) 1 John 4:7-11
    6. He was entrusted to care for the Lord's mother – John 19:26
    7. He wrote the Gospel of John, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> John, and Revelation
- II. Overview of 1 John
  - A. This is another “Joy Book.”
    1. 1 John 1:4
  - B. Its central theme is “truth versus error.”
    1. Throughout the book we find “hereby we know,” “hereby shall we know,” “by this we know.”
  - C. It was written around 90 AD.
    1. He was the last remaining apostle
    2. It was probably written from Ephesus
  - D. Five Main Themes

1. Mutual love among believers
2. The believer's abiding in Christ and in God the Father
3. How the believer may know and distinguish truth from error
4. The true traits of a born again believer.
5. The believer and his relationship to this present world.

#### E. Seven Contrasts

1. Contrast between true light and dark
  - a. Chapter 1:5; 2:11
2. Contrast between the Heavenly Father and the world.
  - a. Chapter 2:12-17
3. Christ in contrast to the Antichrist
  - a. Chapter 2:18-28
4. Good works of the believer in contrast to evil works of the unbeliever.
  - a. Chapter 2:29-3:24
5. The Holy Spirit in contrast to error.
  - a. Chapter 4:1-6
6. The pure love of God in the heart of the believers in contrast to hypocritical love.
  - a. Chapter 4:7-21
7. True believers in contrast to merely professing believers.

#### F. Seven heart-searching tests

1. The acid test of true profession
2. The test of desire
3. The test of true doctrine
4. The test of conduct
5. The test of discernment
6. The test of motive
7. The new birth

#### G. This is a book of no compromise.

#### H. Fundamentals set forth

1. Believe on Jesus Christ, love one another
  - a. Chapter 3:23
2. Love professed, but not manifested in service is hypocritical.
  - a. Chapter 3:17-18
3. Love brings peace
  - a. Chapter 4:18
4. Eternal life
  - a. Chapter 5:10-13

#### I. The Errorists

1. Two main errors being taught

- a. That Christ was too divine to have been really human. They accepted Him as God, but denied Him as human
  - i. Christian Science today.
- b. That Christ was too human to have been divine. He could not have been God in the flesh.
  - i. Unitarian today.

J. Seven traits of a true believer

1. If ye know that He is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of Him
  - a. Chapter 2:29
2. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for His seed remaineth in him: and he cannot commit sin because he is born of God.
  - a. Chapter 3:9
3. Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God
  - a. Chapter 4:7
4. Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth Him that begat loveth Him also that is begotten of Him.
  - a. Chapter 5:1
5. If we love Jesus the Son we love God the Father of the Son. We cannot love one without loving both.
  - a. Chapter 5:1
6. For whosoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.
  - a. Chapter 5:4
7. We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself and that wicked one toucheth him not
  - a. Chapter 5:18

K. Seven reasons this epistle was given to the church

1. That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the /father, and with His Son Jesus Christ
  - a. Chapter 1:3
2. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full
  - a. Chapter 1:4
3. My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous
  - a. Chapter 2:1
4. I write unto you fathers, because ye have known Him that is from the beginning. I write unto you young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known Him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one. Love not the world, neither

the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

a. Chapter 2:13-17

5. I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: but he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. Let that therefore abide in you which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father

a. Chapter 2:21-24

6. These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you

a. Chapter 2:26

7. These things have I written unto you that believeth on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God

a. Chapter 5:13

#### L. Seven Tests of Genuine Christianity

1. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth

a. Chapter 1:6

2. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

a. Chapter 1:8

3. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us

a. Chapter 1:10

4. He that sayeth, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him

a. Chapter 2:4

5. He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.

a. Chapter 2:6

6. He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now

a. Chapter 2:9

7. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

a. Chapter 4:20

#### M. Seven tests of honesty – these are tests which give the mark by which hypocrisy is exposed.

1. False fellowship – If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth

a. Chapter 1:6

2. False sanctity – If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
  - a. Chapter 1:8
3. False righteousness – If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us.
  - a. Chapter 1:10
4. False allegiance – He that saith, I know Him and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
  - a. Chapter 2:4
5. False behavior – He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked
  - a. Chapter 2:6
6. False holiness – He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now
  - a. Chapter 2:9
7. False love to God – If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?
  - a. Chapter 4:20

N. As we study the above verses, we see that the religious professor is living a lie having to do with others and himself. His entire life is false.

O. 1<sup>st</sup> John is God's love letter to His "little children."

1. Two words translated "children"
  - a. Teknon – offspring, those born into God's family
    - (1) 1 John 3:1
  - b. Teknion – endearing word expressing love, such as a mother's love for her baby
    - (2) 1 John 2:1, 12, 28, 3:7, 18; 4:4; 5:21

P. Seven things that have to do with God in 1<sup>st</sup> John

1. Word of God
  - a. Chapter 2:14
2. The love of God
  - a. Chapters 2:5, 4:9, 5:3
3. The will of God
  - a. Chapter 2:17
4. The children of God
  - a. Chapters 3:1,2; 3:10; 5:2
5. The Son of God
  - a. Chapters 3:8; 4:15; 5:5,10,12,13,20
6. Born of God
  - a. Chapter 3:9
7. The Spirit of God

a. Chapter 4:2

Gospel of John		1 <sup>st</sup> John	
	Purpose		Purpose
John 20:31	This was written so man might believe on Jesus Christ.	John 5:13	This was written to true believers so they have assurance of their salvation and that it rests in Christ Jesus
	We see divine life as revealed in Jesus Christ		We see divine life revealed in true born again Christians
	We see the way of eternal life – through Jesus Christ.		We see the nature of eternal life now possessed by true believers.

III. 1 John 1:1-3

A. *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life: (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

B. Verse 1 *“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life:*

1. *That which was from the beginning*
  1. Refers to Jesus Christ
    - a. John 1:1,4
    - b. Here is evidence of God Incarnate
    - c. John declares that the proofs given had been subjected to the trial of the senses.
2. *Which we have heard*
  - a. John was with the Savior throughout His earthly ministry
  - b. He records more of Jesus’ words than any other gospel writer.
3. *That which we have seen with our eyes*
  - a. John saw enough while he was with Jesus to prove that he was the Son of God.

- (1) He saw he Person
  - (2) He saw His miracles
  - (3) He saw Him as a man
  - (4) He saw him do miracles no man could do
  - (5) John was not repeating hearsay or rumors. He had experienced himself what he was reporting.
4. *Which we have looked upon*
    - a. The Greek denotes emphatic and more intensive than “seen.”
    - b. It suggests desire or great pleasure in what was seen.
    - c. Earnest gaze.
  5. *Our hands have handled*
    - a. Because John “touched” Jesus, it showed that He was a man of flesh and bone, not an optical illusion.
    - b. This contradicts the error of the day that Jesus was too divine to be really human.
      1. John 20:24-27
  6. *Of the Word of Life*
    - a. Word in which life resides
    - b. Word which is the source of life
    - c. Refers to Jesus Christ
      - (1) 1 Pet. 1:23

C. Verse 2 - *(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)*

1. *For the life was manifested*
  - a. Made visible to us.
  - b. He appeared as a man so men could see Him, hear Him, touch Him, yet He was surely God
    - (1) John 1:1,2,18
2. *we have seen it, and bear witness,*
  - a. John emphasized that he had personally experienced the reality of Christ the God/Man and that he had seen and heard what Jesus said and did.
3. *shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father*
  - a. This indicates that Jesus is eternal.
  - b. He has no beginning or end
    - (1) Ps. 90:1-2
    - (2) John 1:1-2
4. *and was manifested unto us*
  - a. God was made known to man by the Incarnation
    - (1) When God came to earth as the Man, Jesus Christ

D. Verse 3 - *That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ*

1. *That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you*
  - a. Here John again emphasizes the reality of the man Jesus Christ
  - b. He refutes the errorists of his day.

- c. He is talking about what he personally experienced.
- 2. *that ye also may have fellowship with us*
  - a. We can actually have fellowship with Jesus closest friends, one's who knew him personally here on earth.
- 3. *and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ*
  - 1. Our fellowship is with God the Father and Jesus Christ
    - (1) Fellowship = communion, sharing in common
    - (2) We like the same things, have the same aims
    - (3) We are laborers together with God
      - (a) 1 Cor. 3:9
      - (b) 2 Cor. 6:1
      - (c) Mark 16:20
    - (4) We have this same fellowship with Jesus Christ.



## Quiet Time

1. The Lord took a fiery, vindictive, ambitious man and made him into a disciple of love. Are you fiery, impatient, or vindictive? Do you think that you are so spiritually immature that the Lord can't use you? Look at how the Lord used John when John "sold out" completely to Him. When the Lord called, John left everything and followed Him. Are you willing to make that kind of commitment to your Lord? Are you willing for Him to make radical changes in your life to better suit you for service? If not, are there idols of the heart that keep you from being totally dedicated to serving Him? What are you willing to do about those idols?
2. Are you "qualified" to have fellowship with the God of the universe and his son? Have you been born into his family? If not, would you like to be born into his family? If you have questions about how to do this, please see one of the ladies in the church and she would be happy to discuss this with you.
3. If you have been born into God's family, do you have the same interests and goals that God has? Do you know what the Lord's interests and goals are? If not, consider whether or not you are actually a part of His family. Maybe you need to be saved, or maybe you need to read your Bible more often in order to get to know the one who saved you. To have true "fellowship", those involved need to have common goals and interests. Could you happily involve the Lord in every interest and goal that you have? (He is involved, whether we realize it or not.) If there are areas that you know the Lord would not approve of, what should you do about it? If you aren't willing to make changes, what does that say about the importance of fellowship with the Lord?

**THINK ABOUT IT**

## 1 John 1:4-1:10

## Lesson 2

## Do You Walk the Walk and Talk the Talk?

**I. Review**

- A. We discussed who John was
  - 1. Where he came from
  - 2. What he was like before he was saved
  - 3. What he was like after he was saved
  
- B. We discussed the five main themes in 1 John
  - 1. Mutual love among believers
  - 2. The believer's abiding in Christ and in God the Father
  - 3. How the believer may know and distinguish truth from error
  - 4. The true traits of a born again believer.
  - 5. The believer and his relationship to this present world.
  
- C. Seven Contrasts
  - 8. Contrast between true light and dark
    - b. Chapter 1:5; 2:11
  - 9. Contrast between the Heavenly Father and the world.
    - b. Chapter 2:12-17
  - 10. Christ in contrast to the Antichrist
    - b. Chapter 2:18-28
  - 11. Good works of the believer in contrast to evil works of the unbeliever.
    - b. Chapter 2:29-3:24
  - 12. The Holy Spirit in contrast to error.
    - b. Chapter 4:1-6
  - 13. The pure love of God in the heart of the believers in contrast to hypocritical love.
  - 14. Chapter 4:7-21 True believers in contrast to merely professing believers.
  
- D. Seven heart-searching tests
  - 1. The acid test of true profession
  - 2. The test of desire
  - 3. The test of true doctrine
  - 4. The test of conduct
  - 5. The test of discernment
  - 6. The test of motive
  - 7. The new birth
  
- E. Seven traits of a true believer
  - 1. If ye know that He is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of Him
    - b. Chapter 2:29
  - 2. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for His seed remaineth in him: and he cannot commit sin because he is born of God.
    - b. Chapter 3:9

3. Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God
  - b. Chapter 4:7
4. Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth Him that begat loveth Him also that is begotten of Him.
  - b. Chapter 5:1
5. If we love Jesus the Son we love God the Father of the Son. We cannot love one without loving both.
  - b. Chapter 5:1
6. For whosoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.
  - b. Chapter 5:4
7. We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself and that wicked one toucheth him not
  - a. Chapter 5:18

## IV. Verse 4

A. *And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full*

This is the key verse

6. These are almost the same words that Jesus used when he left his disciples.
  - a) John 15:11
  - b) It is impossible for a believer to have full joy unless he has assurance that Jesus is who he said he was.

## V. Verses 5-7 – The Message

A. *This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

B. *Verse 5 - This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.*

This is “the” message, not just any message.

7. This message isn’t about Christ, it is from Him
8. In scripture, light is an emblem of purity, holiness, truth and knowledge
9. God is light, Satan is darkness
  - a) James 1:17
  - b) John 1:1-9

C. *Verse 6 - If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not the truth.*

1. When a person says that he is saved and lives like the world, talks like the world, walks with the world, and fellowships with the world, the Word of God says he is a liar.
2. According to this verse, if a person says he is a Christian but his daily manner of life, his daily activities, and his fellowship is focused on the world, he is lying. He is not saved.
3. When we are saved, God puts the Holy Spirit into us.

- a) Romans 8:9
  - b) The Spirit leads us into paths of righteousness  
**(1) Rom. 8:14**
  - c) The Spirit seals us  
**(1) Eph. 4:30**
4. We do not the truth
- a) We don't live in accordance to the truth.
  - b) John 14:6
  - c) John 17:17
  - d) John 8:32
  - e) Many churches are filled with professing Christians who don't know Jesus Christ.
  - f) Jesus
    - (1) Is a person**
    - (2) Is Light – Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”**
    - (3) Brings peace – John 14:27**
    - (4) Makes men pure – Heb. 12:14**
    - (5) Brings joy – 1 Pet. 1:8**
    - (6) Causes men to live differently – 2 Cor. 5:17**

D. Verse 7 - *But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

1. *But if we walk in the light*
- a) *To walk in the light is to lead a life of purity and holiness, allowing Jesus to direct our steps, choose our changes, and lead us into paths of right living for His glory.*
  - b) *It means to embrace truth rather than error.*
  - c) *It is conducting our life in a way that pleases God.*
  - d) *It means to be honest with ourselves, with God, and with others*
    - (1) When light reveals sin, we deal with it.**
    - (2) It means obedience**
      - (a) Three motives for obedience**
        - (i) We have to
          - (a) A slave obeys because he has to
            - (i) He will be punished if he doesn't obey
            - (ii) A child obeys at first because he will be spanked if he doesn't.
        - (ii) We need to
          - (a) An employee obeys because he needs to
            - (i) He enjoys getting a paycheck
          - (b) An older child obeys because of enjoyment and reward
        - (iii) We want to
          - (a) A Christian obeys because he wants to
            - (i) Because of his relationship with his Heavenly Father
            - (ii) John 14:15
          - (b) A mature child obeys because of love for his

parents.

2. *As He is in the light*
    - a) *When we are truly saved, we are partakers of the Divine nature.*
      - (1) **2 Peter 1:4**
      - (2) **We possess the same kind of light as the Lord, but not the same degree of light.**
      - (3) **We possess God's nature in the person of the Holy Spirit.**
        - (a) **Romans 8:9**
        - (b) **John 3:5**
    - b) *The true believer has no desire to walk in darkness because he is created new in Christ Jesus and longs to lead a life that will please God.*
  3. *We have fellowship one with another*
    - a) *All true believers belong to God's family.*
    - b) *True believers have much in common.*
      - (1) **The same Holy Spirit**
      - (2) **The same divine nature**
      - (3) **We walk in the same path**
      - (4) **We love the same God**
      - (5) **We live for the same Savior**
    - c) *Since we have so much in common, we should be able to fellowship with each other.*
      - (1) **We may not see eye to eye on everything, but we can agree to disagree and still have fellowship.**
  4. *And the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.*
    - a) *Heb. 9:22*
    - b) *Sin = to miss the mark.*
    - c) *Christ's blood saves us in three ways.*
      - (1) **From the penalty of sin – we will never pay for sin; Jesus paid the price in full at the cross.**
        - (a) **Romans 8:1**
      - (2) **From the power of sin**
        - (a) **Romans 6:6-11**
      - (3) **From the presence of sin**
        - (a) **When Jesus returns**
        - (b) **Heb. 9:26**
- E. Verse 8 – *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us*
1. This was written to believers, and according to this, believers sin
    - a) *1 Cor. 10:12*
    - b) Sin has roots and bears fruits
      - (1) **This verse is referring to the root of sin.**
        - (a) **Ecc. 7:20**
          - (i) Never think that you are above sin.
            - (a) *A magnet attracts pieces of metal, not wood*
            - (b) *We live in bodies attracted by sin*
        - (b) **We are all born in sin. Our bodies are tainted by sin.**
        - (c) **The tainting of old nature (the root of sin) is always there.**

- (i) When under the influence of the old nature, we produce the fruit of the old nature – sin.
- (ii) We are given victory over sin
  - (a) Romans 9:1-9
- c) When we are controlled by the Holy Spirit, we don't sin.
  - (1) **Gal. 5:16**
  - (2) **We are not always controlled by the Holy Spirit, therefore we sin.**
- d) If we say we never sin, we are only lying to ourselves, and probably aren't saved.
  - (1) **The sin nature has been debilitated, but its pull is still there.**
    - (a) **Romans 6:6-16**
      - (i) When we sin, it is usually a choice that we make. The old nature cannot force us to sin. We choose to yield to it.

F. Verse 9 –If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1. If we confess our sins
  - a) John includes himself – this is written for believers.
  - b) We sin because we are sinners
    - (1) **A rooster crows because he is a rooster, he isn't a rooster because he crows.**
    - (2) **When we are saved, God gives us a new heart, but he doesn't give us new flesh.**
      - (a) **We receive a new body when the Lord returns.**
  - c) When God saved us, he didn't just deal with the sins we commit, He gave us a new "root," the Holy Spirit. He put a Divine nature in us.
    - (1) **John 3:5**
    - (2) **Romans 8:9**
    - (3) **Romans 8:14**
    - (4) **Romans 8:16**
    - (5) **Galatians 5:16-17**
    - (6) **Ephesians 4:30**
    - (7) **Galatians 5:22-23**
  - d) We are to confess the "sins" that are the fruit of the "sin" (sin nature) that still draws us.
  - e) "Confess" –means to say the same thing about our sins that God says. It means to take them just as seriously as he does.
    - (1) **It is not "if I have sinned."**
    - (2) **It is "I sinned when I \_\_\_\_\_ . Please forgive me.**
      - (a) **Call sin by what God calls it (envy, hatred, lust, deceit, etc.).**
    - (3) **It is not just admitting sin, but also judging and facing it squarely.**
2. He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.
  - a) He is faithful to keep His promises
    - (1) **He will do all that He has promised.**
  - b) He can justly forgive our sins because Jesus paid the penalty for them.

3. *And cleanse us from all unrighteousness*
  - a) *Two sides to cleansing*
    - (1) **Judicial**
      - (a) ***The blood of Jesus delivers us from the guilt of sin and gives us right standing (justification) before God.***
      - (b) ***God is able to forgive because Jesus' death has satisfied His holy law.***
    - (2) **Personal**
      - (a) ***Inward cleansing***
        - (i) *Ps. 51:10*
        - (ii) *John 15:3*
  - a) *Immediately*
    - (1) ***Proverbs 28:13***

G. Verse 10 - *If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us.*

1. Here sin is an act.
2. Saying that we don't sin is calling God a liar.
  - a) *Romans 3:23*
  - b) *James 4:17*
  - c) *There may be a difference in the degree of sin, but all have sinned.*

## Quiet Time

1. Do you know for sure that you are saved and going to heaven? Consider choices that you make. Scripture tells us that if we say that we are saved, but our behavior reflects the darkness of the world, we are lying. (1 John 1:6) Are you any different from the world around you? Although we all sin, our lifestyle should reflect our relationship with Jesus Christ. Consider your lifestyle:
  - a. Do you dress like the world so that you won't "look strange," or do you make sure that your dress is pleasing to God?
  - b. Is your language the same as the world around you?
  - c. Do you consider the world's humor funny?
  - d. Do you enjoy TV or movies that reflect the world's values?
  - e. Would you rather be at a worldly activity than in the Lord's house?
  - f. Are you more comfortable with unbelievers than with the Lords people?
2. Considering that the Lord puts his Holy Spirit in us when He saves us, would His Spirit do the following:
  - a. Use the same language that you use?
  - b. Dress the same way that you dress?
  - c. Laugh at the same jokes that you laugh at?
  - d. Watch the same TV shows and movies that you watch?
  - e. Choose to go \_\_\_\_\_ rather than come to church?
  - f. Feel more at home with unbelievers than those whom He has saved?
3. Keep in mind that sin is "missing the mark." The "mark" is the holiness of God. Do you feel that you don't really sin "that much"? Do you meet the "holiness of God" in your daily life? The closer you walk with the Lord, the more aware you will be of your sinfulness and how far short you fall of pleasing God. Scripture tells us that if we say that we do not sin, we are a liar. Where do you stand in the light of scripture?
4. When you confess your sins to the Lord, do you say, "Lord, if I've sinned, please forgive me?" When was the last time you said, "Lord, I committed the sin of \_\_\_\_\_ today, please forgive me"? If necessary, do you also confess to the person you sinned against and ask forgiveness?



## 1 John 2:1-6

## Lesson 3

## How to Know if You're Really Saved

**I. Review**

- A. We talked about 1 John being written to give us joy.
- B. We talked about being in the light and how our life should reflect that light and not darkness.
- C. Although we are in the light, we still sin and need to confess our sin and ask for cleansing

**II. Chapter 2:1-6**

A. *“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but for the sins of the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”*

B. Verse 1 - *“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:”*

- 1. John says that it is possible not to live a sinful lifestyle
- 2. The secret to victory over sin is in Chapter 1:7 – walking in the light.
  - a) *This means open, honest, and sincere.*
    - (1) **Sincere = without wax**
      - (a) **Roman sculptors used wax to cover mistakes in their works of art.**
      - (b) **The wax was not noticeable until the sculpture sat in the sun for a while. Then the wax melted and the cracks became visible.**
    - (2) **When we walk in the light, we can't hide anything.**
    - (3) **It is refreshing to meet a Christian who is open and honest and isn't trying to hide anything. “What you see is what you get.”**
- 3. *“My little children” = little born ones*
  - a) *John is writing to born again believers*
- 4. *“these things write I unto you, that ye sin not”*
  - a) *“These things” refer to what was just discussed in Chapter 1*
  - b) *John has written so that believers can recognize their sin problem and do something about it.*
    - (1) **Believers shouldn't sin**
    - (2) **Believers don't need to sin**
    - (3) **But when believers do sin, there is a solution.**
- 5. *.”And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous”*
  - a) *John's goal is that believers shouldn't sin. But he makes it clear that when*

*we do sin, we shouldn't get discouraged because we have and advocate with the Father.*

b) *Even though we are saved, we still have a sin nature and are tempted by sin. But when we do, we remember that God has provided a solution.*

c) *"Advocate" – someone who is eligible to stand in our place before God and capable of pleading our case.*

**(1) Like a lawyer**

**(2) He doesn't deny the fact of our sin**

**(3) He presents to the Father the fact that He has taken the punishment for our sin.**

**(4) 1 Peter 2:21-25**

6. *"Jesus Christ the righteous"*

a) *Because of Jesus Christ perfect righteousness, He has the ability to impute to us His righteousness*

b) *Righteousness is not attained, but imputed. It is bestowed on us. He took on our sin and credited to our account His righteousness.*

**(1) Like an anonymous deposit to a bank account**

**(2) 2 Cor. 5:21**

C. Verse 2 - *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but for the sins of the whole world.*

1. *"Propitiation" = turning away anger, reconciliation between God and man*

a) *Render favorable*

b) *Appeasement, satisfaction*

c) *Similar Greek words are translated "mercy seat".*

d) *God hates sin. God is angry with sin.*

e) *God must punish sin.*

**(1) His anger must be turned away and His wrath satisfied by a suitable sacrifice.**

**(2) Only Jesus Christ could supply such a sacrifice.**

**(3) Because of what Jesus Christ did for us, God's anger is turned away from us and He is free to forgive us.**

**(4) God doesn't overlook sin, but because of Jesus sacrifice, God can remain just and yet forgive sins.**

f) *The sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross satisfied the demands of God's holiness for the punishment of sin*

2. *"but for the sins of the whole world"*

a) *Generic word, not referring to every individual.*

**(1) John 1:29; 3:16; 6:51**

**(2) 1 Tim. 2:6**

**(3) Heb. 2:9**

b) *Christ only died for those who would repent and believe.*

**(1) John 3:18**

c) *Christ died for all "kinds" of men, not for all men inclusive.*

**(1) The Jews were astonished that a Gentile could become a Christian**

**(a) Acts 10:45**

- D. Verse 3 – *“And hereby do we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.”*
1. One of the key verses in this epistle is “These things write we unto you that you joy may be full.”
  2. We can’t have joy in our salvation unless we know for sure that we are saved.
  3. If you don’t know for sure that you are saved, there is a good chance that you are not saved.
    - a) *In this verse, John says “we know.”*
    - b) *2 Tim. 1:12 – Paul knew*
    - c) *Rom. 8:16*
  4. “If we keep His commandments
    - a) *Jesus came to fulfill the commandments.*
    - b) *His commandments to us are more than the ten commandments*
      - (1) **Matt. .5:27-28**
      - (2) **Matt. 5:21-22**
      - (3) **Gal. 6:2 – bear one another’s burdens**
      - (4) **2 John 5 – love one another**
    - c) *We can’t obey his commandments in the energy of the flesh*
      - (1) **Rom. 5:5**
      - (2) **Heb. 10:15-16**
      - (3) **Gal 5:22**
    - d) *God is keeping his commandments through us. We can’t keep them on our own*
- E. Verse 4 – *“He that saith, I know Him , and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”*
1. If a person says that they have accepted Jesus Christ as their savior, but don’t keep His commandments, he is lying to others and to himself. He isn’t fooling anyone except for, perhaps, himself.
    - a) *Here is what the Lord thinks about hypocrites*
      - (1) **Matt: 23:1-7; 14-15; 23,25,27**
  2. *“the truth is not in him.”*
    - a) *What is the truth?*
      - (1) **John 14:6**
    - b) *Not only is this man a liar, the Lord is not in him. He doesn’t have the Holy Spirit within him producing the works of Jesus Christ.*
- F. Verse 5 – *“But whoso keepeth His Word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him.”*
1. “Keepeth” – present tense, indicating continuous activity, not a one time act.
    - a) *Day by day obedience*
    - b) *In material things*
    - c) *In spiritual things*
    - d) *When people are watching*
    - e) *When we are alone*
    - f) *In the little things*
      - (1) **John 2:5**
        - (a) **Jesus asked such a little thing.**
        - (b) **It became a big miracle.**

2. Obedience is the test that determines whether or not we are really born again.
    - a) *It follows true conversion*
    - b) *It is the measure of our love for God*
  3. A disobedient child may profess over and over love for his parents. But his persistent disobedience makes his words meaningless.
    - a) *John 14:15*
    - b) *In the Greek this reads "you will keep."*
  4. Matt. 28:18-20
    - a) *"observe all things"*
    - b) *How can we be obedient to this command to teach others to observe all things if we are disobedient ourselves.*
      - (1) ***This puts us in the same category as the scribes and Pharisees.***
      - (2) ***This is "all things," not just the things we like. To base our obedience on our judgment is to tell God that we know better than He what is important.***
  5. True love is always accompanied by obedience.
    - a) *Love that produces obedience to God assures the heart that we are genuinely born again.*
    - b) *The natural man does not obey God, nor follow the leadership of the Spirit, because he has no love for God.*
      - (1) ***1 Cor. 2:14***
- G. Verse 6 – "He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked."
1. *"He that saith he abideth in Him"*
    - a) *Abideth – depend completely on Him for all that we need in order to live for Him and serve Him. It means to remain or stay around.*
      - (1) ***It is a living relationship***
      - (2) ***Gal. 2:20***
      - (3) ***It is the work of the Holy Spirit***
        - (a) ***We have fellowship with the Father through the Son***
        - (b) ***The Father has fellowship with us through the Holy Spirit.***
        - (c) ***It is not by imitation that we walk as He walked, but by the Holy Spirit.***
          - i. We need not obey the desires of our sin nature.
  2. John 15:1-14
    - a) *Here John gives us an account of what it means to "abide" in Him.*
    - b) *John 15 is written to Jewish believers. It is talking about fruit being the outward demonstration of true faith. It is not talking about salvation and losing salvation.*
    - c) John 15:1 – I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.
      - (1) I Am
        - (a) When Jesus said "I am," the Jews understood that he was saying that he was God
          - i. Gen 3:14

- d) God revealed himself to the Jews by the name I AM
  - (1) John 4:26
  - (2) John 6:25
  - (3) John 8:23
  - (4) John 9:5
  - (5) John 10:36
  - (6) John 11:35
  - (7) John 13:13
- e) "True vine"
  - (1) Throughout Jewish history, Israel was known as God's vine
    - (a) Jer. 2:21
    - (b) Hosea 10:1; 14:7Ps. 80:9-16
    - (c) Is 5:1-7
- f) It referred to the entire nation of Israel, not just spiritual Israel who are believers
  - (1) Hosea 14:1 – fallen by thine iniquity.
  - (2) Hosea 10:1- empty vine
- g) When Jesus said that he was the "true vine," he was contrasting himself and professing believers with the entire nation of Israel, including those who only professed belief in God.
  - (1) In this passage, those "in him" are all professing believers, just as the nation Israel consisted of all "professing believers" in God
  - (2) "true" = genuine, in contrast to Israel
  - (3) "husbandman" = landworker, farmer

*Paraphrase*

- (1) I am (deity), and am the genuine vine foreshadowed by Israel, and my Father is the farmer who tends the vine.
- (2) We are branches
  - (a) We cannot bear fruit on our own, we depend on the vine to bear fruit through us.
    - i. The branch that bears no fruit - Verses 2 and 6
    - ii. If we don't bear fruit, we are not a true believer and He takes us away
    - iii. We are cast into the fire – eternal damnation
- (3) The branch that bears fruit
  - (a) He purges it so it can bring forth more fruit.
    - i. He prunes it.
    - ii. He takes away all things in a believer's life that would hinder fruit-bearing.
    - iii. God's goal – that we bear more fruit, then much fruit
    - iv. If we abide in Christ, we bring forth much fruit.

*Verse 7*

- (1) If we are abiding in Christ, we can ask for anything and it will be given to us.
  - (a) If we have known sin in our life, we are not “abiding”.
  - (b) Ps. 66:18
  - (c) If we are abiding, God will put His desires in our heart so that we are praying in His will. What we ask for would therefore be God’s will for us and He would give it to us.
    - i. Ps. 37:4-5
3. “ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.”
  - a) If we are abiding in Him, our life should reflect Jesus Christ.

## Quiet Time

1. Do you understand the aspect of salvation in which Jesus 'Christ is our Advocate and Propitiation? These are big words, but understanding what they mean can be a help to you in presenting the gospel. Don't necessarily use these words when witnessing, but explain the idea to an unbeliever in simple terms. Think of examples, such as the attorney mentioned in the lesson.
2. Think of how you would present the gospel so that a 10 year old child could understand it. The Lord expects us to witness to all the world. If you are unable to present the gospel, make sure that you are saved yourself. Then, search the scriptures for verses that would lead a person to Christ. If you need help with this, ask at the next Bible study. Many born again Christians feel inadequate to present the gospel, so don't be afraid to ask.
3. Are you exhibiting a lifestyle of obedience to the Lord? Do you know what His commandments are? How can you be obedient, if you don't know His commandments.
4. Are you trying to produce your own "fruit" rather than depending on the Vine? Nothing that we do on our own is of any lasting value. (John 15:5) Get into the Word of God, develop a close relationship with your Lord, be obedient to what He reveals to you, then let Him produce "much fruit" in you.
5. Are you abiding in the Lord? Do you know what it means to abide in the Lord. Do you see supernatural fruit in your life indicating that you are abiding in the Lord? If not, ask the Lord to point out to you areas in your life that are hindering your relationship with Him. Are you grieving the Spirit? Are you quenching the Spirit? When He shows you areas that He wants changed, are you willing to make those changes, or are they more important to you than your relationship with Him?

1 John 2:1-6  
Lesson 4  
Old Doctrine – New Application

## I. Review

- A. We talked about John saying that it is possible not to live a sinful lifestyle
- B. We talked about what to do when we do sin.
- C. We talked about Jesus Christ our advocate and propitiation
- D. We talked about abiding in Christ

## II. Chapter 2:7-11

A. *“Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which we had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. Again a new commandment write I unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.”*

B. When John describes a life that is real, he repeatedly uses the words “life”, “love”, and “light.”

- 1. These three can't be separated

C. Here is John's teaching on love

D. Verses 2:7-11

- 1. We learn how love is affected by light and darkness
- 2. A Christian who is obedient to God will love his Christian brother.

E. Verses 3:10-24

- 1. Christian love is a matter of life or death
  - a) To live in hatred is to live a life in spiritual death.

F. Verses 4:7-21

- 1. Christian love is a matter of truth and error.
  - a) We know God's love toward us
  - b) Therefore we should show God's love to others.

G. Three reasons why a Christian should love

- 1. We are commanded to love
  - a) 2:7-11



2. We are born of God and God's love is in us.
    - a) 3:10-24
  3. We love because He first loved us.
- H. John practices what he preaches
1. He is known as the apostle of love
    - a) *At one time he was called "Son of Thunder."*
    - b) *At one time he was vengeful and ambitious.*
  2. He refers to his readers as "beloved."
- I. The Greek word for "love" in 1John is "agape."
1. The word for God's love for us.
  2. The word for Christian's love for each other.
  3. It is unconditional, based on the decision of the lover, not the merit of the one being loved.
  4. Another word translated "love" in scripture
    - a) *Philia*  
**(1) Friendship**
- J. We should show God's love towards others.
1. In our verses today we see how Christian love is affected by light and darkness.
  2. The commandment to love one another is new in character, not in time
- K. Verse 7 - *"Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which we had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning."*
1. Deut. 6:5
  2. Leviticus 19:18
  3. Mark 12:28-34
  4. It is "old" in that it has always been
  5. This teaching has been around for years
- L. Verse 8 *"Again a new commandment write I unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth."*
1. "New" in Verse 8
    - a) Two Greek words for "new"
      - (1) One means "new in time."**
        - (a) Recent**
      - (2) One means "new in quality."**
        - (a) Fresh**
  2. Love and the commandment to love is not new in time, but in emphasis
  3. The commandment to "love" stands head and shoulders above the other commandments.

- a) It fulfills God's law
    - (1) **Rom. 13:8-10**
    - (2) **When a person acts out of Christian love, he obeys God and serves others, not because of fear, but because of his love.**
  - b) Parents fulfill their responsibilities to their children out of love for the child, not fear of the law.
  - c) From the beginning of our Christian life we "love" other Christians.
    - (1) **3:14**
    - (2) **John 13:35**
  - d) An unbeliever can be compared to a newborn baby
    - (1) **Self centered**
    - (2) **Thinks the world revolves around him**
    - (3) **Titus 3:3**
  - e) It is the first fruit of the Fruit of the Spirit.
4. It's new in example.
- a) Jesus Christ was our example for how to love.
    - (1) **He never showed hatred or malice.**
    - (2) **He hated sin, but never those who committed the sin.**
    - (3) **He loved his disciples.**
      - (a) **Peter – impulsive**
      - (b) **Thomas – doubting**
    - (4) **He loved publicans and sinners**
      - (a) **Luke 15:1**
    - (5) **He loved the multitudes**
      - (a) **Fed them**
      - (b) **Healed them**
      - (c) **Taught them**
    - (6) **He told us to not only love our friends, but also our enemies.**
      - (a) **Matt: 5:43-38**
    - (7) **He was a new illustration of an old truth.**
    - (8) **We are to follow His example.**
      - (a) **4:17**
      - (b) **John 13:34**
      - (c) **John 15:12**
5. "because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth."
- a) John 1:4,5,9
  - b) Col. 1:12-14

M. Verses 9-11 -. *He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes."*

1. It is new in experience
2. It is impossible to be in fellowship with the Father and out of fellowship with another Christian at the same time.
  - a) *Matt. 5:21-26*
3. If a Christian walks in the light and has fellowship with the Father, he will have fellowship with others in God's family.
  - a) *Love and light go together the same as hatred and darkness.*
  - b) *It is more than "lip service."*
4. True love is not blind.
  - a) *Phil. 1:9-10*
  - b) *It is act of the will, not an emotion*
    - (1) **God doesn't command us to have an emotion. He commands us to act.**
  - c) *Practical examples of love*
    - (1) **John 13:14**
    - (2) **Rom. 12:10**
    - (3) **Rom 12:16**
    - (4) **Rom 14:13**
    - (5) **Rom 15:7**
    - (6) **Rom 15:14**
    - (7) **1 Thess. 5:11**
    - (8) **Gal 6:2**
5. Consequences of hating the brethren
  - a) *He thinks he is living in the light (1 John 2:9)*
  - b) *Spiritual blindness*
  - c) *He can cause himself and others to stumble.*
    - (1) **Rom 14:13-15**
  - d) *Problems and disunity in the church.*
  - e) *It retards a believer's spiritual progress – verse 11*
    - (1) **But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.**
6. Hatred is blinding
  - a) *Read the book of Esther*
    - (1) **Haman was blinded by his hatred for the Jew**
  - b) *A person blinded by hatred cannot recognize truth.*
7. If we are not in fellowship, we will produce the works of the flesh
  - a) *Gal. 5:19-21*
8. Practical results of loving the brethren
  - a) *We will be living in the light*
    - (1) **We will be in fellowship with our Heavenly Father and our fellow believers.**

**(2) We will produce the Fruit of the Spirit.**

**(3) We will see the pitfalls of Satan in our path**

- b) *We will not be stumbling or become a stumbling block to others.*
- c) *We will grow spiritually.*

N. We cannot produce Biblical love on our own.

1. It is only when God puts His love in our hearts that we can love others.

a) *Rom. 5:5*

2. The Holy Spirit takes the “old things” and makes them “new things” in our experience.

O. When a man works in the light, it shows on his face, he is suntanned. If a man works inside all of the time, he is much paler.

1. Spiritually – if we walk in the light of God and His love it will change our appearance and our habits of life as well. Walking in the light of God changes us throughout.

## Quiet Time

1. Do you understand what “agape” love is? Think of the people in your life that you love. Do you love them because they deserve your love? It is easy to love someone who is lovable. What about those in your life who are unlovable?
2. Are there relationships in your life that are “difficult”? Do you feel that if you just avoid that person, everything will be fine? It isn’t hurting anyone. What does the scripture say about your relationship with God when you are out of fellowship with a fellow believer? Is your relationship with the Lord more important than your “right” to carry a grudge?
3. Think of those you consider to be friends. Now think of those you would consider an “enemy.” “I really don’t have any enemies,” you might say. What about those that really “offend” you or you would rather not be around? If we are to love our enemies, what should our attitude be toward those we “tolerate”?
4. How do you show your love to members of your family or close friends? Do you call them, pray for them, encourage them, make time to see them? Do you make an effort to know what is going on in their life so you can encourage them? Now think of those who offend you or you would rather not be around. Do you call them, pray for them, make time to see them, and encourage them? If not, why is there a difference between how you show love to those close to you and those from which you distance yourself?
5. Remember that lack of love for other Christians is an indication of “walking in darkness.” We won’t always agree on everything, but that doesn’t mean that we refuse to love those we disagree with. Remember that biblical love is a choice, not a feeling. Pray that the Lord bring to mind those you are not loving in a biblical manner. Now what do you plan to do about it?

1 John 2:12-17  
Lesson 5  
Loving the World

## I. Review

- A. *We talked about Christian love*
- B. *We talked about an “old commandment” meaning a commandment that wasn’t new to them*
- C. *We talked about a “new commandment” being new in quality, emphasis, or application.*
- D. *We talked about the difference in love and hate.*

## II. Verses 12-14

A. *I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name’s sake. I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known Him that is from the beginning, I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the Word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.*

1. “Little born ones” = those who are babes in Christ
2. “Young men” = those who have grown in grace
3. “Fathers” = those who are spiritually mature
4. There should be progress in the Christian life
  - a) Heb. 6:1
  - b) Col. 2:6-7

B. *Verse 12 - I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name’s sake...because ye have known the Father*

1. This part is written to new believers and all believers because we are saved.
2. They know the Father through Jesus Christ
3. The second reference to “little children” is a different word for “little children” and designates children still under the authority of teachers or tutors

C. *Verse 13a - I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known Him that is from the beginning*

1. Fathers = a place of spiritual maturity
  - a) He is seasoned, instructed
  - b) He knows God and the power of God
    - (1) 2 Tim. 2:15
    - (2) Phil 3:7-10
    - (3) 2 Tim. 1:12
    - (4) Dan 11:32
    - (5) He knows the dangers of the world
  - c) The greatest joy of a spiritual father is to lead souls to Christ
    - (1) Paul
      - (a) 1 Tim. 1:2

(b) Phm. 10

(2) John

(a) 3 John 4

2. Verse 13b - I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one... you are strong...the Word of God abideth in you
3. This is written to those who are growing but not yet mature,
4. How did they overcome the Wicked One?
  - a) Ps 119:9-16
  - b) They overcame the Tempter, not temptation
  - c) There is no excuse for a Christian to live a defeated life, overcome by sin.
    - (1) Rom. 6:11-14
    - (2) Rom 8:35-39
    - (3) 1 John 5:4
    - (4) Rom. 6:17
  - d) A growing Christian is strong
    - (1) Eph 6:10
    - (2) We feed on the Word of God and exercise our spiritual life in service to God
    - (3) He bears the infirmities of others
      - (a) Joshua 1:9-18
      - (b) Haggai 2:4
      - (c) Romans 15:1
    - (4) Most Christians read the Bible
      - (a) Not too many read it consistently
      - (b) A few study it.
      - (c) Col. 3:16
  - e) Every believer has within his heart this Divine inexhaustible power, this source of information and inspiration, and through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, he can know, understand, and be led according to God's directions, regardless of the circumstances or conditions in which he may find himself.

III. Verse 15 – Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

*A. After we are saved, the love of God comes into our heart and there are spiritual negatives that naturally follow.*

1. We will have tribulation
  - a) John 16:33
  - b) Luke 9:62
  - c) Matt. 10:38
2. Three “Can not’s”
  - a) Luke 14:25-27, 33
  - b) If any man puts values his family or his life more than God, he cannot be a disciple
  - c) If a man will not bear his cross and come after Christ, he cannot be a disciple
  - d) If a man is unwilling to forsake all that he has, he cannot be a disciple.
  - e) The scripture doesn’t say we will be weak, poor, or backslidden disciples, it says that we cannot be a disciple at all.
3. “Love not the world”

- a) Three meanings for “world” in scripture
  - (1) Physical world
    - (a) Acts 17:24
  - (2) Human world – mankind
    - (a) John 3:16
  - (3) World system
    - (a) Satan’s system for opposing the work of Christ on earth
    - (b) Unsaved people belong to the world
      - (i) Luke 16:8
- b) Don’t love anything in the world that is alienated from God – things, people, influences.
- c) Satan is the ruler of this world
  - (1) John 14:30
  - (2) 2 Cor. 4:4
  - (3) 1 John 5:19
- d) When a Christian begins to focus on worldly amusements, going to questionable places, fellowshiping with the unsaved for the sake of enjoying their company, he will find that his desire for God’s word, his love for God, and fellowship with other believers will slip away.
  - (1) This Christian is going to be miserable.
    - (a) Peter – the night he denied Jesus
      - (i) He wept and repented.
    - (b) Demas
      - (i) 2 Tim. 4:10
- e) Four reasons a believer is not to love the world.
  - (1) Because of what the world is
    - (a) Satan’s system of opposing the work of Christ on earth.
  - (2) Because of what the world does to us.
    - (a) It is a matter of attitude
    - (b) It affects your response to the love of God
    - (c) It affects your response to the will of God
      - (i) When a believer loses his enjoyment of the Father’s love, he finds it hard to obey the Father’s will.
    - (d) Anything in a Christian’s life that causes him to lose his enjoyment of the Father’s love (i.e. neglecting personal devotions) or his desire to do the Father’s will (your daily conduct) is worldly and must be avoided.
  - (3) Because of what a Christian is
    - (a) Sharing God’s nature should discourage the Christian from becoming friendly with the world.
    - (b) He realizes that the things of the world are only toys
      - (i) 1 Cor. 13:11
  - (4) Because of where the world is going
    - (a) 1 John 2:17 – it is passing away
    - (b) We are only pilgrims
      - (i) Heb. 11:13
    - (c) 1 Cor. 7:31
    - (d) The issue for the Christian isn’t, “Is this right or wrong” or “Is it



good or bad”.

- (i) The issue is, “Is this the will of God for me?”
  - (a) God wants us to understand His will
    - (i) Eph. 5:17
- (ii) Discovering God’s will
  - (a) Begins with surrender
    - (i) Rom 12:1-2
  - (b) A person who loves the world will never understand the will of God
  - (c) God reveals His will through His word
    - (i) Ps. 119:105
  - (d) God reveals His will through circumstances
    - (i) Tested by the Word of God
  - (e) God reveals His will through prayer and the Holy Spirit
    - (i) Tested by the Word of God

IV. Verse 16 – For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

A. *The systems of the world are controlled by Satan*

B. *There are three deadly evils in the world that are out to damn unbelievers and discredit and discourage believers. Temptation comes through one of three areas*

1. A believer can be attracted to things of the world, but one who is in love with the world cannot be in love with God at the same time.
  - a) Matt. 6:24
2. Three areas of temptation
  - a) The lust of the flesh
    - (1) Our old nature
      - (a) Mark 7:21-23
      - (b) Jer. 17:9
      - (c) Ezek. 36:26
    - (2) Jesus temptation in the wilderness
    - (3) God given desires that are taken to an extreme and become sin
      - (a) Hunger – gluttony
      - (b) Thirst – drunkenness
      - (c) Sleep – laziness
      - (d) Sex within marriage – immorality.
    - (4) It appeals to the normal appetites and tempts one to satisfy them in forbidden ways,
      - (a) Anything that appeals to the fallen nature.
        - (i) Matt 4:2
        - (ii) Matt 4:4
          - (a) Jesus quoted scripture
            - (iii) Rom 7:18
            - (iv) John 6:63
            - (v) Phil 3:3
            - (vi) Rom 13:14

- b) The pride of life
  - (1) Evil desires in the heart that long for position, power, wealth and comfort.
    - (a) Matt. 4:5-6
    - (b) Satan misquoted scripture
      - (i) Jesus wasn't here to make a name for himself.
      - (ii) Jesus quoted scripture again
    - (c) James 4:6
    - (d) 1 Tim. 6:10
    - (e) Pr. 16:18
    - (f) We want to make an impression
  - (2) Steps in worldliness
    - (a) James 4:4 – friendship with the world
      - (i) 1 John 3:13
    - (b) James 1:27 – spotted by the world
    - (c) Rom 12:2 – conformed to the world
  - (3) Example of Lot
    - (a) Lot looked toward Sodom
      - (i) Gen 13:5-13
    - (b) Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom
      - (i) Gen 14:8-14
    - (c) Lot moved into Sodom
      - (i) Gen 19
    - (d) Lot was captured with Sodom
      - (i) 2 Pet. 2:6-8
    - (e) Lot lost everything when Sodom was destroyed
      - (i) 1 Cor. 3:12-15
- c) The lust of the eyes
  - (1) Eyes have an appetite – “feast your eyes on ...”
    - (a) Pleasures that gratify the sight and mind
      - (i) Josh 7:21
      - (ii) Matt 4:8-10
      - (iii) Jesus again quoted scripture
      - (iv) Matt 9:47
      - (v) Adam and Eve – Gen 3:6
        - (a) Eve looked – lust of the eyes
        - (b) It would make one wise – pride of life
        - (c) It was good for food - lust of the flesh
      - (vi) Matt 14:26-31
        - (a) When he SAW

V. Verse 17 – And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

A. *There is warfare for the believer*

1. Gal 5:17
2. We are overcomers
  - a) John 4:4

**3. Gal 2:20**

## Quiet Time

1. Where do you stand spiritually? Are you a “little child” a babe in Christ? Are you a “young man” or a “father”? Your age or how long you have been saved has nothing to do with your “spiritual age.” If you have been saved for many years, but are still a “little child,” what does that say about your spiritual hunger and desire to grow in the Lord? Are you willing to put the time and effort into studying and applying scripture to everyday experience in order to grow spiritually? If not, why not"
2. How much do you love the “world?” When faced with a decision concerning an activity, a book to read, a video to watch, do you ask the Lord what He wants you to do? If not, is it because you know what He wants and you want your own way instead? If this is the case, what does this say about your obedience to the will of God? Remember that you have to be obedient to the will of God that is revealed to you before He will further reveal His will.
3. Think about Lot. Review his downward spiral as a result of loving the world. Are you in a downward spiral? What is it in the world that lures you away from a close walk with the Lord? Are you willing to separate from that temptation in order to walk more closely with the Lord?

1 John 2:18-29  
Lesson 6  
How to Identify a Fake

## I. Review

A. *We talked about different levels of spiritual maturity*

1. Little children
2. Fathers
3. Young men

B. *We talked about what it means to love the world*

C. *We talked about the three areas that temp believers*

1. The lust of the flesh
2. The lust of the eyes
3. The pride of life

D. *Read 1 John 2: 18-29*

II. Verse 18 – *“Little children, it is the last time: and as we have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.”*

A. *Have you ever heard someone say, “They are so sincere, what they believe must be true.”?*

1. A nurse gives a patient medicine that she sincerely believes is the right medicine. However she was wrong and the patient dies.
2. A man hears someone in the house at night and believing it is a burglar, gets up and shoots his daughter who has gotten up to get a snack because she couldn’t sleep.

B. *It does make a difference what a person believes. They can believe a lie or they can believe the truth.*

C. *John has cautioned the believer about the conflict between light and dark, between love and hate, and now he cautions them about the conflict between truth and error.*

D. *The believer must walk in light, love, and now truth.*

E. *John emphasized the seriousness of walking in truth by using two special terms. They remind the Christian that he is living in an hour of crisis.*

1. The last time
  - a) All Old Testament history prepared the way for the work of Christ on the cross
  - b) We are in a new age. The darkness is past
    - (1) 1 John 2:8
  - c) The first coming of Jesus was in the “last days.”
    - (1) Heb. 1:1-2
    - (2) Heb 9:26
    - (3) Acts 2:17

- (4) 1 Cor. 10:11
- d) We are in the "last time."
  - (1) 2 Peter 3:3-4
  - (2) Jude 16-18
- e) We have been living in the "last time" for more than 2000 years.
- f) If we are in the last time, why hasn't Jesus returned?
  - (1) He works in human time, but He is above time
    - (a) 2 Peter 3:8
- g) The "last hour" started back in John's day and has been growing in intensity ever since."
  - (1) The "last hour" or "last time" referred to in scripture refers to a kind of time, not a duration of time.
  - (2) 1 Tim. 4 describes the "latter times." Paul observed characteristics of his time that are still going on today with even greater intensity.

## 2. Antichrist

- a) A word used only by John
- b) It describes three things
  - (1) A spirit in the world that opposes or denies Christ
    - (a) 1 John 4:3
    - (b) Behind every false doctrine
  - (2) False teachers who embody this spirit
  - (3) A person who will head the final world rebellion against Christ.
- c) Anti = dual meaning
  - (1) against
  - (2) instead of
- d) This is plural
  - (1) These are forerunners of the final Man of Sin
- e) They deny the deity of Christ
  - (1) They deny the verbal inspiration of scripture
  - (2) They deny the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ
  - (3) Today they are called modernists or liberals.
- f) Satan is fighting Christ and substituting his counterfeits for the truth.
  - (1) He started this back in Genesis 3

## III. Signs of the Apostate

### A. *He departs from the fellowship*

1. Verse 19 – *"They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."*

- a) "Us" refers to the fellowship of believers, the church.
- b) When a person trusts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, he becomes part of God's family. He should then join a local group of Christians – a local church.
- c) A person can claim to be a Christian, yet not be truly saved. So a church membership can consist of both believers and unbelievers.
- d) An evidence of true Christianity is a desire to be with God's people
  - (1) 1 John 3:14

- (2) When people have the same divine nature (2 Peter 1:4) and are indwelt by the same Holy Spirit (Rom 8:14-16), they want to fellowship and share with one another.
- (a) Fellowship = have in common.
- e) The fact that they left is evidence that they were not truly saved.
- (1) They were members of a local church, but they weren't "of" it.
- (2) It is possible for one to be a "backslider," but most of the time when one leaves a church and goes his own way, it is because he has not been saved.
- (3) 2 Pet. 2:20-22
- (a) These were dogs and pigs, not sheep.
- (4) There are men in pulpits across the world who profess to be ministers of the gospel, but deny the deity of Christ, his virgin birth, His atoning death, His bodily resurrection, and His personal return.
- (a) 2 Cor. 11:13-15
- (5) True believers continue in the faith.
- (6) Leaving the local church exposed their error.
- f) There are many divisions between Christians, but there are some fundamentals that all Christians believe
- (1) The Bible is the Word of God
- (2) Jesus is the Son of God
- (3) Men are sinners and there is only one way of salvation.
- (4) Christ died as man's substitute on the cross
- (5) Jesus rose from the dead
- (6) The Holy Spirit indwells true believers
- (7) Jesus will come again.
- g) The founders of most false cults started out in a local church. They went out and started their own group.

### B. He denies the faith

1. 1 John 2:20-25 – *“But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: But he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. Let that therefore abide in you which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. And this is the promise that He hath promised us, even eternal life.*

2. Key question – “Who is Jesus Christ?”

- a) Good example
- b) Good man
- c) Great teacher
- d) God come in the flesh

3. But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things

- a) “unction” = anointing
- b) If a man does not have the Holy Spirit, he isn't saved
  - (1) Rom. 8:9
  - (2) 2 Cor. 1:21-22

(3) 1 Peter 2:6

(4) John 7:17

4. False Christians of John's day used two special words to describe their experience: "knowledge" and "unction." They claimed to have a special anointing from God that gave them a unique knowledge. They were "illuminated" and therefore living on a much higher level than anybody else.

a) Today – Masonic Morals and Dogma

(1) "The doctrines of the Bible are often not clothed in the language of strict truth, but in that which was fittest to convey to a rude and ignorant people the practical essentials of the doctrine. A perfectly pure faith, free from all extraneous admixtures, a system of noble theism and lofty morality, would find too little preparation for it in the common mind and heart, to admit of prompt reception by the masses of mankind; and Truth might not have reached us, if it had not borrowed the wings of Error.

b) True Christians know God, have received the Holy Spirit, and can recognize a lie when they see it.

c) What sets a true Christian apart from "Jesus Christ is God come in the flesh" (1 John 4:2)

(1) This is more than acknowledging who Jesus is.

(a) Mark 1:24

(b) It is a personal witness from your heart of what Christ has done for you.

(c) It is trusting Jesus Christ and bearing witness to his faith

(i) Rom. 10:9-10

5. Verse 21 – *"I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth."*

a) John is writing to believers.

(1) Truth and error cannot mix.

(a) God is "light," not "twilight."

(2) John 14:8

(3) 2 John 7-11

6. Verse 22 – *"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist that denieth the Father and the Son."*

a) This is the fourth time we find someone called a liar.

(1) Chapter 1:8

(2) Chapter 1:10

(3) Chapter 2:4

(4) Our present verse.

7. Verse 23 – *"Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: But he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also."*

a) To deny the Son means to deny the Father

(1) You cannot divide the Father and Son since they are both one God

(a) John 10:30

(b) John 5:23

b) True Christian life continues as it began – faith in the Bible's message.

8. Verse 24 – *"Let that therefore abide in you which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father."*



- a) Stick closely to what you learned in the beginning of your Christian experience. Hang on to those basic doctrines.
  - b) Don't be lured away from basic Christian doctrines the idea of something "new" that most Christians are ignorant of. The Holy Spirit will give you the wisdom to discern truth from error.
9. Verse 25 – *“And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.”*
- a) 1 John 5:11-12
  - b) John 3:36

C. *He tries to deceive the faithful*

1. Verses 26-29 – *“These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. But the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is not lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in Him. And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.”*
2. Verse 26 – *“These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.”*
- a) Seduce = lead astray
  - b) It is interesting that antichristian groups spend much of their time trying to convert professing Christians to their own doctrines.
    - (1) 1 Tim. 4:1
  - c) Satan is the father of lies
    - (1) John 8:44
    - (2) 2 Cor. 11:1-4, 13-15
  - d) Satan is a counterfeiter.
    - (1) 2 Cor. 11:13-15 - ministers
    - (2) Gal 1:6-12 -Gospel
    - (3) John 8:43-44 - Christians
    - (4) Romans 10:1-10 - righteousness
  - e) Some will try to twist scripture
    - (1) 2 Cor. 4:1-2
3. Verse 27 – *“But the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in Him.”*
- a) How can a believer detect false teaching from truth?
    - (1) Depend on the Holy Spirit.
      - (a) John 14:17
      - (b) John 15:26
    - b) “Anointing” – reminds us of the OT practice of pouring oil on the head of a person being set apart for special service.
      - (1) Priest – Ex. 28:41
      - (2) King - 1 Sam. 15:1
      - (3) Prophet – 1 Kings 19:16
    - c) A Christian is anointed with the Spirit of God that sets him apart for his ministry as one of God's priests.
      - (1) 1 Pet. 2:5, 9
      - (2) This happens at the point of salvation. We don't need to pray for it.
      - (3) It abides in us.

d) *“and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in Him.”*

(1) There is the office of “teacher” in the church.

(a) Eph. 4:11-12

(b) We must test the teaching of men as we search the scriptures

(i) Acts 17:11

(2) The Holy Spirit guides us to all truth and in all truth

(3) The Spirit teaches “all things”

(a) Beware of those who have a habit of focusing on only one doctrine (prophecy, sanctification, diet, etc).

(b) “Every word” – Matt. 4:4

e) According to 2 John 7-11, if a believer “flirts” with deceivers, he is in danger of losing his full reward.

(1) The believer shouldn’t even say “good bye” (God be with you).

(2) Don’t let them into your home to explain their views.

(a) They will plant seeds of false teaching in your mind.

(b) You are giving them entrance into other homes by your example.

4. Verse 28 – *“And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming”*

a) “Abide” - remain in fellowship.

(1) It is possible to be part of a family, yet be out of fellowship with one’s father and other members of the family.

(a) When this happens, God chastens us

(i) Heb. 12:5-11

b) Why are some believers led astray to believe false teachings? Because they are not abiding in the Spirit.

(1) False teachers do not abide (continue) in the fellowship

(a) V.2:19

(2) The message we have heard should abide in us

(a) V. 24

(3) The Holy Spirit abides in us

(a) V. 27

(4) As we abide in the Word and the Spirit, we abide in Christ

(a) V. 28

(5) Other earlier references

(a) V. 2:6

(b) V.10

(c) V. 14

(d) V. 17

c) There is a difference between deliberate deception and spiritual ignorance.

(1) Apollos

(a) His message wasn’t complete

(b) Acts 18:24-28

d) “Appear”

(1) Jesus will come back

(2) Christians will be judged on their faithfulness in serving Christ

(a) 1 Cor. 3:10-15

(b) 1 Cor. 4:5

e) "Ashamed"

(1) Some Christians will be ashamed before Him

(2) A disobedient Christian who has not walked in fellowship with Christ will lose his reward (not his salvation) and will be ashamed.

5. Verse 29 – *"If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him."*

a) Marks of a true believer

(1) Obedience

(2) Love

(3) Truth

### Quiet Time

1. Sometimes you may hear a preacher state that he has discovered a “new truth” in Scripture. Are you tempted to “follow him” because this sounds exciting? What did our study today have to say about new revelation?
2. What does it mean to confess that Jesus is the Christ? If someone says that they believe in God the Father but not that Jesus is God the Son, is that person saved? If you have questions, reread 1 John 2:23.
3. Do you ever sit in church and think, “I’ve heard all of this before? I need to hear something new”. What does verse 24 have to say about the “old truths?”
4. When we read that “ye need not that any man teach you,” does that mean that you shouldn’t accept the teaching of any man? If so, how do you explain the spiritual gift of teaching listed in scripture? What do these words mean?
5. When someone comes to your door with a false doctrine, how does 2 John 7-11 tell us to respond? Do you invite them in so you can debate with them? Many of us have invited false prophets into our homes with the hope of evangelizing them. But what does 2 John tell us to do? Did you realize that just telling them, “Goodbye” is “partaking in his evil deeds.”?
6. When you appear before the Lord on Judgment Day, will you receive a full reward, or will you be ashamed before Him. Remember, we are discussing reward, not salvation. Salvation is a free gift, rewards are bestowed for good works done in the filling of the Spirit, to be presented at the feet of our Savior.
7. As far as you know, are you abiding in Christ in every area of your life? Ask the Lord to show you areas that are not committed to Him. Are you willing to surrender these to Him? If not, why not?

### THINK ABOUT IT

1 John 3:1-10  
Lesson 7  
Who Are You Kidding?

## I. Review

- A. *We talked about “walking in the truth”*
- B. *We talked about what it means to love the world*
- C. *We talked about the Antichrist and its meaning in 1 John*
- D. *We talked about the signs of the apostate*

## II. Overview

- A. *Read 1 John 3: 1-10*
- B. *We have seen that practicing righteousness and loving the brethren is proof of salvation and has been discussed in the first two chapters.*
  - 1. The emphasis was on “fellowship”
  - 2. In chapters 3-5 the emphasis is on “sonship”
    - a) Because a Christian is “born of God” he will practice righteousness and love the brethren.
- C. *Remember that in verses 6 and 9 that the verb tense in the Greek denotes “practice.” Verse 1:8-9 does not contradict 3:6 and 9 if we understand that verses 6 and 9 are talking about “practicing” sin.*
  - 1. To practice sin means to sin consistently and as a way of life. It does not refer to committing an occasional sin. God doesn’t expect the believer to be “sinless” but to “sin less.”
  - 2. Examples of great believers in scripture who sinned
    - a) Abraham – Gen 12:10-20
    - b) Moses – Num. 20:7-13
    - c) Peter – Matt. 26:69-75
    - d) This was not the settled practice of these men.
      - (1) It was an incident in their lives, contrary to their normal habits
      - (2) They repented and asked forgiveness
    - e) The unsaved person
      - (1) Lives a life of habitual sin
        - (a) Eph. 2:1-3
      - (2) May know “about” God, but doesn’t actually “know” him.

III. Verse 1 – *“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”*

- A. *“Behold” – stop and think about this*
- B. *“Manner of love” = peculiar, out-of-this-world kind of love*
  - 1. Romans 5:1-10

2. "Manner"
  - a) Matt. 8:27

C. "Called the sons of God"

1. From the natural aspect, we are all descendants of Adam and Eve, brothers in the flesh.
2. From the spiritual aspect, only born again blood bought believers are sons of God
  - a) John 8:44
  - b) Two groups
    - (1) Children of God
      - (a) Gal 3:26
      - (b) John 1:12-13
    - (2) Children of the devil
3. We are actually a child of the creator of the universe – NOW
4. "Therefore"
  - a) The world doesn't know us because it didn't know the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - (1) John 1:10
    - (2) Go to a funeral home and into a room with two men, each in his own casket.
      - (a) How much fellowship can they have? (None)
      - (b) The world is dead to a spiritually minded believer
      - (c) The spiritually minded believer is dead to the world.
      - (d) The believer and unbeliever cannot fellowship together
        - (i) Amos 3:3
        - (ii) You won't be invited to a nightclub or a poker game with a Bible under your arm.
5. Love for Christ expels sin and evil and compels to obedience.
  - a) If we love Him as we should, we should not find it difficult to obey His Word and His will.

IV. Verse 2 – "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

A. "Now are we the sons of God"

1. We are completely saved now
2. We are members of the body of Christ now
3. We sit together with Christ in heavenly places now
4. We are sons of God now
5. We possess the Holy Spirit now
  - a) We are born of the Spirit
    - (1) John 3:5
  - b) We are baptized into the body of Christ by the Spirit
    - (1) 1 Cor. 12:12, 13
  - c) We are led by the Spirit
    - (1) Rom. 8:14
  - d) We are sealed by the Spirit
    - (1) Eph. 4:30

B. "And it doth not yet appear what we shall be"

1. In verse 1, John told us what we are now

2. In verse 2, John tells us what we will be after we die.
3. What we shall be like after we die has not been fully revealed.

C. *But we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is*

1. Phil 3:20-21
2. Rom. 8:29
3. The little that we know
  - a) He ascended to heaven and came back to earth after his resurrection.
  - b) He entered a locked room
    - (1) John 20:19-28
  - c) He had flesh and bone and could eat
    - (1) Luke 24:36-43
4. Our glorified bodies will be like the resurrection body of the glorified Christ
  - a) Phil 3:21
  - b) 2 Cor. 3:18
5. We will actually “see” him.

V. Verse 3 *“And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”*

A. “This hope in him” = *the hope of Jesus return*

1. “Hope” in scripture is not wishful thinking; it is expecting something to happen. It is certain.

B. “Purifieth himself”

1. The expectation of Christ’s return and our being like him should encourage us to godly living
  - a) James 1:18-25
2. John 15:3 - the Word of God is our spiritual bathtub.
  - a) Eph. 5:26
  - b) 2 Cor. 3:18
  - c) God does the purifying through His word
    - (1) We have to get into the Word. He doesn’t force feed us.

VI. Verses 1-3 tell us what we are, what we shall be, and what we should be.

VII. Verses 4-8 Overview

A. *Two reasons why Jesus came and died*

1. To take away our sins (vs. 4-6)
2. To destroy the works of the devil (vs. 7, 8)

VIII. Verse 4 – *“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”*

A. *Here is the biblical definition of sin.*

1. Whoever has a rebellious heart breaks the law.

B. *All have sinned*

1. Rom 3:23
2. Rom 3:10
3. Ecc. 7:20
4. Is. 53:6

C. *We are not saved by keeping the law.*

1. Rom 3:20
2. Gal 3:24
3. Rom 8:1-4

D. *Notice that "sin" is singular, not plural*

1. Sin = root
2. Sins = fruit

E. *Here, sin is viewed as defiance.*

1. Remember that one of the marks of a true believer is that of love for God expressed by obedience to His word.

- a) 1 John 2:3
- b) 1 John 3:22
- c) 1 John 5:2
- d) 1 Cor. 9:21

2. Sin is a matter of the will

- a) To assert our will against God's will is rebellion.
- b) Rebellion is the root of sin

(1) Sitting on the outside, standing up on the inside.

IX. Verse 5 – *"And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin."*

A. *Jesus main purpose in coming to earth was to pay the sin debt*

1. Heb 10:4, 12, 14
2. Rom 3:24-26
3. "Sins" = our past sins and also the sins of OT believers that the blood of sacrifices "covered" until the incarnation of Christ.
  - a) Heb 9:15

B. *He had to be sinless in order to be qualified to pay for the sins of others,*

X. Verse 6 – *"Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him."*

A. *"Abideth in him" = to be in one specific place all the time Application = to allow nothing to come between ourselves and Christ. To be in fellowship.*

1. Study John 15
2. John 1:38
3. John 4:40
4. John 14:25
5. Acts 27:41 – "stuck fast and remained immovable"
6. John 8:31
7. John 15 – abide, continue, remain
  - a) John 15:10 – how to abide
8. Sonship brings about union with Christ
9. Fellowship makes possible our communion with Christ.

B. *"Abiding" keeps us from deliberately disobeying His Word.*



1. One who deliberately and habitually sins is proving that he doesn't know Christ and isn't abiding in Him.
2. Christ's death on the cross broke the power of sin in our lives
  - a) Rom. 6-8

*C. Whoever is in fellowship with Jesus Christ doesn't practice a lifestyle of sin. Whoever practices a lifestyle of sin doesn't know Jesus Christ*

XI. Verse 7 – "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous."

A. *"Little children" – this is addressed to believers.*

B. *The fruit of righteousness is a result of Christ's imputed righteousness.*

1. It is a fruit of our salvation
  - a) 1 Cor. 1:30

*C. The only way we can be righteous as He is righteous is because God the Father looks at us through the imputed righteousness of Christ.*

1. Col 1:27
2. Rom 8:1

XII. Verse 8 – "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."

A. *"He that committeth sin is of the devil"; - He who practices sin is of the devil. He is not of God*

B. *"For the devil sinneth from the beginning"*

1. Ez 28:11-15
2. Is 14:12-15
3. Beginning of Satan's existence
  - a) He is not eternal
  - b) He does not have the attributes of God (omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent, etc.)
  - c) He has an army of demons who make it possible to work in many places at one time (Eph. 6:10-12)
  - d) No record of creation of hell in Genesis
  - e) Matt 25:41 – hell was prepared for the devil and his angels.
4. Names of Satan
  - a) Satan – adversary, enemy
  - b) The devil – accuser
  - c) Abaddon or Apollyon – destroyer
  - d) Prince of this world
  - e) The dragon

C. *"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."*

1. In verse 5 Christ was manifest to take away our sins. Here He is manifest to destroy the works of Satan.
2. "Destroy" = render inoperative, to rob of power, not annihilate. Satan is still at work today, but his power has been reduced and his weapons have been impaired.

## a) Luke 11:14-23

D. *Three facts stated in this verse*

1. He that lives a sinful lifestyle is of the devil
2. The devil sinned from the beginning
3. Jesus came to destroy the works of Satan

XIII. Verse 9 – “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”

A. *“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him:”*

1. This again refers to habitual sin.
  - a) “His seed” – there are different interpretations of what the seed is.
    - (1) The new nature
      - (a) 1 Peter 1:23
      - (b) We have an old nature and a new nature.
      - (c) The “dog that is stronger is the one we feed the most.”
    - (2) Word of God – Jesus Christ
      - (a) 1 Peter 1:23
      - (b) John 5:24
      - (c) Rom 10:17
      - (d) John 1:1
2. “And he cannot sin, because he is born of God”
  - a) To say that a man cannot sin if he is born again contradicts 1John 1:8

*B. However one interprets “the seed”, it is clear that a born again Christian has a new nature, is no longer under bondage to the old nature, and is incapable of consistently leading a sinful lifestyle.*

XIV. Verse 10 – In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.”

A. *Children of God live a righteous lifestyle*

*B. Children of the devil do not live a righteous lifestyle.*

C. *Gal 2:20*D. *What about the “backsliding” Christian? – Jer. 3:22*

1. Sin sets in – James 1:13-15
  - a) “Enticed” = bait on a hook
  - b) We yield to sin
  - c) We lose an appetite for spiritual things.
  - d) We stop serving
2. Remedy
  - a) Confess and forsake sin
    - (1) 1 John 1:9
  - b) We need to turn to Christ for cleansing.
    - (1) 1 John 1:9
  - c) Yield himself a living sacrifice
    - (1) Rom 12:1-2

- d) Read the Word of God
  - (1) Ps. 119:11
- e) Get spiritual exercise
  - (1) 1 Cor. 12:1-11
  - (2)** 1 Pet. 4:10

## Quiet Time

1. Do you take time each day to feed on the Word of God? Do you take time each day to pray? Do you say that you just don't have time for Bible study and prayer? Remember that God won't ask you to do anything that He won't give you strength to do. Would He ask you to spend time with Him and then not give you enough time in your day to do it? Reevaluate your schedule and ask God what changes He wants you to make. The big question is – are you willing to make those changes?
2. Is there unconfessed sin in your life? Are you willing to confess and forsake it? If not, consider that this sin may have become an idol of your heart. What is more important – holding on to your sin, or a close relationship with Jesus Christ?
3. Do you feel “comfortable” in the world and think that people at church just “don't understand” you? Notice in 1John 3:1 that the world doesn't understand the believer because it didn't understand the Lord. If the world understands you, what does that say about your relationship with Jesus Christ?
4. Are you knowingly leading a sinful lifestyle? According to 1John 1:8, who does that put you in league with? Does that bother you?

THINK ABOUT IT

1 John 3:11-24  
Lesson 8  
Love Is More Than "I Love You"

## I. Review

- A. *We talked about practicing love for the brethren is proof of salvation*
- B. *We talked about how we will be like Christ when He appears*
- C. *We talked about abiding in Christ*
- D. *We talked about how to regain fellowship with God when we yield to sin*

## II. Overview

- A. *Read 1 John 3: 11-24*
- B. *In 1John, John keeps returning to the same topics of "love, obedience, and truth"*
  - 1. Each time he looks at it from a different point of view and takes us a little deeper into the subject.
  - 2. In chapter 2, the emphasis was on fellowship
  - 3. Today the emphasis is on relationship.
  - 4. Loving the brethren is a matter of life and death
- C. *Four levels of relationship*
  - 1. Murder – vs. 11-12
  - 2. Hatred – vs. 13-15
  - 3. Indifference – vs. 16-17
  - 4. Christian compassion – vs. 18-24
- D. *Three blessings on the believer who practice Christian love*
  - 1. Assurance
  - 2. Answered prayer
  - 3. Abiding

III. *Verse 11- 12 – "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous."*

- A. **Murder** – *the lowest level of relationships*
- B. Verse 12 - "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another."
  - 1. First we have a command to love each other.
  - 2. Then, John gives us an illustration.

C. . Verse 12 - "Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother." And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous."

1. Here, Cain is the negative example – hatred.
  - a) This is an account that they have know about since the beginning, the story of Cain and Abel isn't new to them.
    - (1) Gen. 4:1-16
    - (2) Cain and Abel were brothers
    - (3) They had the same physical parents
    - (4) They both brought sacrifices.
    - (5) Cain came as a worshipper
      - (a) A child of the devil masqueraded as a believer
      - (b) They can attend religious gatherings and bring offerings.
      - (c) Coming to church, claiming to be a believer, and bringing offerings are not proof that a man is born of God.
        - (i) Love for the brethren is proof of a relationship with God.
  - b) Cain and Abel had different spiritual fathers.
    - (1) Cain's spiritual father was Satan
    - (2) Cain's attitudes and actions originated with Satan
    - (3) John 8:44
      - (a) Cain murdered and lied about it.
        - (i) Gen. 4:9
2. The difference in Cain and Abel's offerings
  - a) Abel's offering was based on faith
    - (1) Heb. 11:4
    - (2) It is clear that God must have given direction as to how he wanted to be worshipped.
    - (3) Cain decided to worship in his own way.
    - (4) Abel went away knowing that he was accepted by God
    - (5) Cain went away disappointed and angry.
3. God gave Cain a second chance to worship Him in an accepted way.
  - a) Instead of listening to God, he plotted to kill his brother.
  - b) The Pharisees did the same thing to Jesus
    - (1) Mark 15:9-10
    - (2) Jesus called them children of the devil
      - (a) John 8:44
4. Like Cain, people in the world try to cover up their true nature with religious rites; but they lack faith in God's word.

IV. *Verses 13-15 – "13 - Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. 14 - We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. 15 - Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him."*

A. **Hatred** – the second level of relationships

B. Verse 13 - "Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you."

1. Those in the world hate believers because we come from two different countries.

- a) It is unnatural for those of the world to love citizens of heaven.
- b) It is natural for citizens of heaven to love each other.

C. Verse 14 – “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.”

1. We know that we have passed from eternal death into eternal life because we love other Christians. If you don't love your brother, you aren't saved. We don't love each other to gain salvation; we love them because we are saved. Our love for them is a proof of our salvation.

D. Verse 15 – “Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.”

1. Matt 5:22

2. *Have you ever murdered anyone?*

a) Why not

(1) *Punishment?*

b) What would you do if there was no fear of punishment?

c) The issue isn't what you do but what do you want to do.

d) When a person is part of the world system, he hates Christians.

(1) *Acts 8:1; 9:1-2 - Paul*

e) Hatred - This is the lowest level of a relationship.

(1) *This is the level where Satan exists*

(a) *John 8:44*

(2) *We reflect who our father is.*

(a) *If it is Satan, we hate others*

(b) *If it is God, we must love the brethren.*

E. *These verses refer to a settled life-style*

1. It doesn't mean that if a person gets angry, it is proof that he isn't saved

a) A believer out of fellowship is miserable

(1) *Matt 5:22-24*

2. Murderers can be saved

a) *Acts 7:57-60*

b) *Acts 25:9-11*

3. The issue isn't whether a murderer can be saved, but whether a murderer can continue to be a murderer and still be a Christian.

V. *Verses 16-17 – “Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?”*

A. *Indifference – the third level of relationships*

B. *The test of a believer doesn't involve failure to do evil to others, but doing good to them.*

1. *Is 1:16-17*

2. Put off evil, put on good

3. Cain is an example of evil

4. The Lord is our example of good

C. Verse 16 - *“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”*

1. Jesus laid down his life for us.
  - a) Rom 5:6-10
  - b) John 10:11-18 – He gave his life
2. We are to sacrifice for other believers.

D. Verse 17 – *“But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?”*

1. Now it gets personal
2. Goes from “brethren” to “brother.”
3. The test goes to quietly helping a brother in need.
  - a) If we won’t help a brother, it isn’t likely we will lay down our life for the brethren.
4. Three conditions to meet before helping a brother in need.
  - a) Have the means necessary to meet his need.
  - b) Know the need exists
  - c) Be loving enough to want to share
5. A believer who is able to help and hardens his heart to a brother in need is condemned.
  - a) Reason to work – Eph. 4:28
  - b) Gal 6:10
6. Helping a brother in need is not limited to money or material things. It can include personal service and giving of oneself to others.

VI. Verses 18-24 – *“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. 19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. 20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. 22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. 23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. 24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.”*

A. Verse 18 – *“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”*

1. Loving in word = James 2:15-16
2. Loving in deed = doing something about the need
3. Loving in tongue = love insincerely
4. Loving in truth = love genuinely from the heart

B. *Blessings that will come to a believer who practices Christian love.*

1. Assurance – 1 John 3:19-20
2. Answered prayer – 1 John 3:21-22
3. Abiding – 1 John 3:23-24

C. **Assurance** - Verses 19-21 - *19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. 20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.*



1. "Hereby" points back to what we have just studied
  - a) We know that God loves us because he laid down his life for us –vs. 16
  - b) We know that we love the brethren
  - c) Therefore we know that we are of the truth (saved).
2. "For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things."
  - a) Pr. 4:23
  - b) When we are saved, Jesus gives us a new heart where Jesus abides.
    - (1) This heart assures us.
  - c) A condemning heart robs a believer of peace.
    - (1) Sometime the heart accuses us wrongly because it is deceitful (Jer. 17:9)
    - (2) God knows the heart
    - (3) A Christian can accuse himself falsely or been harder on himself than necessary.
    - (4) God never judges wrongly.
    - (5) Peter
      - (a) Mark 16:7
    - (6) Once your sin is confessed and forgiven, you are free to put it behind you.
      - (a) Acts 3:14 (ye)
    - (7) Don't treat sin lightly, but don't be harder on yourself than God is.
    - (8) If you are practicing genuine love for the brethren, your heart must be right before God, for the Holy Spirit would not "shed abroad" His love in you if there were habitual sin in your life.
      - (a) Eph. 4:30-5:2
  - d) "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God"
    - (1) Only a believer can trust his heart.
      - (a) Acts 23:1; Acts 24:16 – Paul lived in good conscience.
        - (i) Acts 26:9-11
        - (ii) Before Paul's conversion, his conscience guided him wrong.

**D. Answered prayer** - "22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."

1. James 4:2-3
2. Psalm 66:18
3. John 15:7
4. We don't earn answers to prayer by loving the brethren. Love for the brethren is proof that you are living in the will of God where God can answer your prayer.
  - a) Relationships to brethren cannot be divorced from prayer life.
    - (1) 1 Peter 3:7
5. Ps. 37:4 – When we delight in the Lord, he puts his desires in our heart. Then we pray in his will.

**E. Abiding** - 23 "And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. 24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us."

1. John 6:26-29
2. Matt 2:34-40
3. The first part of the commandment is the source of the second.
4. Dwelleth = lives with, abides
  - a) We get to know those we live with
  - b) We know their likes and dislikes
  - c) We know what they enjoy and what they don't like to do
  - d) We know that he abides in us because of the Holy Spirit within us.
5. Faith toward God and love toward men are two sides of the same coin.

## Quiet Time

1. Have you examined your heart lately?
  - Do you believe with your heart or with your head?
  - Do you love in deed or just words that are soon forgotten?
  - Is the Holy Spirit abiding in your heart?
  - Does your heart assure you that you are a child of God, or does it condemn you?
  
2. Have you ever thought that “Yes, God has forgiven me, but I just can’t forgive myself.”? Nowhere in scripture are we told to forgive ourselves. We are told to ask God for forgiveness, but not to forgive ourselves. Jesus death on the cross was enough to cover all the sins of all those He chose. Paul considered himself completely forgiven in spite of his past. Do you believe that your sins are any greater than Paul’s?
  
3. How are you showing true love for other believers right now? If you can’t think of any ways, examine your heart? Are you truly saved? Remember that showing love for others isn’t always “public.” Some of the most loving acts are shown quietly and gently.
  
4. Ask God to show you how He wants you to demonstrate love toward others. Then do it, but don’t tell anyone. 😊

THINK ABOUT IT

1 John 4:1-16  
Lesson 9  
Who Can You Trust?

## I. Review

- A. *We talked more about “love, obedience, and truth”*
- B. *We talked about four levels of relationships*
1. Murder
  2. Hatred
  3. Indifference
  4. Christian compassion
- C. *We talked about three blessing on the believer who practices Christian love*
1. Assurance
  2. Answered prayer
  3. Abiding

## II. Overview

- A. *Read 1 John 4: 1-16*
1. Two main subjects in this chapter
    - a) Verses 1-6 How we can determine if we have the Spirit of God and how we can recognize the spirit of delusion
    - b) Verses 7-21 The duty of the believer concerning love, its power, and its influence.

## III. Verse 1 – “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

- A. *There are many false religions today*
1. Christianity is a relationship, not a religion
  2. True believers have the Holy Spirit dwelling in them and although they may be weak and perhaps not well taught in the Word of God, they will not be totally led astray.
    - a) 1 Peter 2:6 – “Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded.”
  3. There are many false prophets in the world today
    - a) Jesus said that this would be a sign of His return.
      - (1) Matt 24:4, 5, 11

*B. False teachers profess to be true*

1. Satan can quote more scripture than most church members
2. Teachers of error know more about the Bible than many born again believers.
  - a) They study to feed their error
  - b) Believers study to feed their souls

*IV. Verses 2, 3 – “Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.”*

*A. Verse 2 - “Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:*

1. Here is the acid test for knowing whether someone is to be trusted or not.
2. Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God
  - a) This does not mean
    - (1) Someone that believes that Jesus was a historical person
    - (2) Someone who was a great teacher
    - (3) Someone who was a great healer
    - (4) Someone who did miracles

*B. A better reading – “Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus is Christ come in the flesh is of God.”*

1. Difference in “Jesus is Christ come...” and “Jesus Christ is come...”
2. Joseph was told to name our Lord Jesus
  - a) Matt 1:18-25
  - b) “Jesus” = Savior – His human name
  - c) “Christ” = Anointed One – His divine name
3. He was God’s Christ before He became known to man as Jesus.

*C. “Every one that confesses that Jesus is Christ” includes the following in that statement*

1. Jesus is God
2. God was in Christ
3. He came to earth
4. He was born of a virgin

*D. The question is – “Whose son is he”*

1. Matt 22:42

*E. A believer confesses that Jesus is God’s Christ come in the flesh.*

*F. If Jesus is not who He said He was – “I and my Father are one,” He was either*

1. History’s greatest hoax
2. The world’s greatest imposter

3. The biggest liar that ever lived
4. The greatest blasphemer that ever lived (He claimed to be God).

G. Verse 3: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.”

1. Those who don't believe that Jesus is Christ and all that is involved in that has the spirit of the antichrist.
  - a) It doesn't matter how “good” they look
    - (1) 2 Cor. 11:13-15
2. If we support a false teacher, we run the risk of losing our reward
  - a) 2 John 7-11
  - b) The scripture teaches that a true believer will know whether someone is a false teacher or not
    - (1) The Holy Spirit dwells in the believer
    - (2) We need to check out what a man teaches
    - (3) We shouldn't rely on his speaking ability, looks, or how convincing he is.
  - c) The question is – who is Jesus Christ

V. Verse 4 – *“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world,”*

A. *At the moment that you are saved*

1. You are born of God
2. The Holy Spirit dwells in you

B. *We are guaranteed victory because of our relationship with God.*

1. One believer + God = a majority over any crowd.

C. *“Have overcome them”*

1. We have already overcome
2. 1 Cor. 10:13

D. *Why do we have victory?*

1. “because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world,”
2. “He that is in you” = The Holy Spirit

VI. Verses 5, 6 – *“They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.”*

A. *The world has always gone after the most spectacular and entertaining.*

1. They loved Jesus when he fed them loaves and fishes.
2. Some godly preachers attract great crowds.
3. How the people react to a teacher is not proof of whether or not he is a man of

God.

4. The world hears the false preacher because he preaches to please the world.
  - a) He is of the world
  - b) His standards and practices are of the world.
  - c) Many modern day churches have dances, bingo games, and serve beer or cocktails at church parties.

B. "He that knoweth God heareth us."

1. True believers listen to the ministers of God
  - a) The spirit of the pastor ministers to the spirit of the believer.
2. The unbeliever in the pew will endure sound doctrine for a short time, and then they can't tolerate it any longer.
3. Jesus divided people
  - a) "He is God"
  - b) "He has a devil."
  - c) "He works his miracle through the power of God."
  - d) "He does it through the power of Beelzebub."

C. "Hereby know we the Spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."

1. God's preachers are citizens of another world.
  - a) The Holy Spirit is their guide
  - b) The Holy Word is their textbook
  - c) God empowers their message.
  - d) The world laughs at them
    - (1) 1 Cor. 4:10-13
  - e) They are labeled "old fashioned."
2. 1 Cor. 2:12-16

VII. Verses 7 thru 10 – *"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."*

A. The topic of "love" occupies the rest of this chapter.

1. This is the third time John speaks about love
2. Here the Holy Spirit presents "love" from a deeper point of view.
  - a) First – the love of brethren was shown as proof of fellowship with God (2:7-11)
  - b) Second – love of brethren was shown as proof of sonship (3:10-14)
  - c) Later it was shown as a matter of light or darkness or a matter of life and death.
3. Here we are told why love is such an important part of the life that is real
  - a) God is love

- b) It we are united with God through faith in Christ, we share His nature.
- c) Since His nature is love, love is the test of the reality of our spiritual life.
- d) Three times in this passage, John encourages us to love one another (7, 11, 12)

B. Verses 7, 8 – “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

1. Verse 7 - “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.”
  - a) “Beloved” – John is talking to believers
  - b) There are three expressions in John’s writings that help us understand the nature of God.
    - (1) God is spirit = refers to His essence; He is not flesh and blood. He is not limited by time and space.
    - (2) God is light = this refers to his holy nature.
    - (3) God is love = God’s holiness is expressed in love.
      - (a) God’s love is a holy love
      - (b) The fact that two people love each other does not mean that their love is holy.
        - (i) True Godly love is spiritual and holy.
        - (ii) Rom. 5:5
  - c) We reveal God’s love in how we live.
    - (1) The love of God automatically issues from the heart.
  - d) We “knoweth God”
    - (1) To know God is more than an intellectual acquaintance or understanding.
    - (2) The word “know” is used to describe the intimate relationship between a husband and wife.
    - (3) We have a deep relationship with God, share His life and enjoy His love.

C. Verse 8 – “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”

1. Many unsaved people love their families
2. Many unsaved people have an intellectual knowledge of God
3. The natural eye cannot differentiate between love the proceeds from the heart of God and love displayed by man toward others for various reasons.
4. Paraphrase – The person who does not have this divine kind of love has never entered into a personal, experiential knowledge of God. What he knows is in his head, but it has never gotten into his heart.”
5. What God determines we should be – see vs. 17
6. A person who claims he knows God and is in union with Him must be



personally affected by this relationship. He ought to become what God is and “God is love.”

D. Verses 9, 10 – “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

1. Verse 9 - “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.”

- a) Manifested = come out in the open or make public
  - (1) Opposite of “to hide” or “make secret.”
  - (2) He was “manifested” to take away our sins (1 John 3:5)
  - (3) He was “manifested” to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8)
- b) God communicated his love for us in “deed.”
- c) God gave his best for our worst.
- d) Romans 5:8
- e) Romans 5:1-11
- f) “Only begotten” = unique, the only one of its kind.

E. Verse 10 – “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

- 1. The sending of Christ into the world was prompted by God’s love for man, not man’s love for God.
- 2. Man didn’t love God – John 1:10-13
- 3. “Propitiation” = satisfaction, satisfying of God’s holy law
- 4. 1 Cor. 5:21

VIII. *Verse 11 – “Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.”*

A. *Because the holy and perfect God loved hopeless ungodly sinners, we ought to love others who, like ourselves, are redeemed by the blood of Jesus.*

- 1. “Ought” = are designed
- 2. The first item in the fruit of the Spirit is “love.”
  - a) Gal. 5:22

B. *For a description of God’s kind of love, see 1 Cor. 13*

IX. *Verse 12 – “No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another; God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us.”*

A. “No man hath seen God at any time”

- 1. John 1:8
  - a) “Bosom” = place of love, comfort, rest
    - (1) Close relationship, deep love
  - b) No human being has seen God the Father

- c) Jesus is the image of the invisible God
  - (1) Col. 1:15
- d) We know He is in us by the outflow of love from our hearts
  - (1) God now reveals himself through those He saved.

B. “God dwelleth in us” – 1 Cor. 6:19

- 1. Remain in spiritual oneness with God, no sin comes between us.

C. “His love is perfected in us”

- 1. When we love the brethren as we are commanded to, such love is the proper carrying out of our love towards God.

X. Verses 13-16 – *“Hereby know we that we dwell in Him, and He in us, because He hath given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.”*

A. Verse 13 – “Hereby know we that we dwell in Him, and He in us, because He hath given us of His Spirit.”

- 1. We know that we are saved because we are in fellowship with him and He has given us his Holy Spirit which is producing spiritual fruit in our life (Gal 5:22-23)

B. Verse 14 – “And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.”

- 1. Here John again reminds them that he had personally seen and witnessed what Jesus did on the cross.
- 2. “Savior of the world” does not mean the world “all inclusive” but “without distinction.”
  - a) To be savior of the world “all inclusive” would mean that the whole world would be saved.

C. Verse 15 – “Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.”

- 1. Only those chosen of God are capable of choosing God at the time God gives them the ability to desire God. Man in his old nature is incapable of choosing God.
- 2. Confessing that Jesus is the Son of God (not just a man, born of a man) is a sign that God dwells in him and he in God.
- 3. To be savior of the world “without distinction” would mean that there is no distinction between Jew and Gentile, man or woman, etc.

D. Verse 16 – “And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.”

1. "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us."
  - a) We not only "known" intellectually, but "believe" in our heart that God loves us.
  - b) No matter what trials we may experience, we can be confident that God loves us and has the best planned for us.
2. "God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him."
  - a) God first loved us.
  - b) Now we love Him
  - c) Because He loves us and put His Holy Spirit within us, He can love others through us.

#### XI. Recap

##### A. *In these verses, there are three different witnesses*

1. The witness of the believer that Jesus Christ is God's Son (1 John 4:15)
2. The witness in the believer (1 John 4:13)
3. The witness through the believer that God is love and sent his son (1 John 4:14).

##### B. *Jesus proved God's love when He went to the cross.*

##### C. *Love in more than a statement*

1. It begins as a commandment (vs. 7)
2. It becomes a privilege (vs. 11)
3. It is also a consequence of our abiding in Christ (vs. 12)

#### XII. Application

##### A. *The better we know God's love, the easier it will be to live as a Christian.*

##### B. *Unless we love the lost, our verbal witness to them will be useless.*

1. One reason why God permits the world to hate Christians is so that Christians may return love for the world's hatred.
  - a) Matt 5:11

## Quiet Time

1. Do you have favorite radio or television preachers that you listen to? How much do you know about what they believe? Do they teach Biblical salvation, or do they throw in works. Stop and think about the fact that saying Christ's death plus works is necessary for salvation is really saying that Christ is only half of a savior. His death wasn't enough to save us. He needs us to help him. Be sure to try the spirits whether they are of God.
2. When someone comes to your door (such as a Jehovah's Witness), do you ask them who Jesus Christ was? Ask them if He was God. If they say "no," what does that say about them? According to this passage, do they have the Spirit of God or the spirit of the Antichrist? How should you respond to them?
3. Keep in mind that Biblical love is different from the worldly love talked about in our society. Read 1 Cor. 13. Does the love that you show to others reflect the characteristics of love in this passage? This kind of love can't be developed in your life by your "working on it." It is fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22) produced as a result of abiding in Christ. What John has been talking about is the fact that if we are abiding with Christ, Biblical love will be produced in our life. If it isn't, examine whether or not you are saved. If you are, can you think of areas in your life that the Lord wants changed? Are you willing to change those areas? If not, what does that say about the importance of a close walk with God in your life? Are there idols of the heart that you want to keep? Are they more important than you walk with your Lord?

*THINK ABOUT IT*

**1 John 4:17- 5:5**  
**Lesson 10**  
**Real Love Isn't "Kid Stuff"**

## I. Review

- A. *We talked about how to discern false teachers*
- B. *We talked about what it means to believe "Jesus Christ is come in the flesh."*
- C. *We talked about what it means to believe Jesus is the Son of God*

## II. Overview

- A. *Read 1 John 4: 17-5:5*
  1. We will now turn from discussing the love for other believers and consider our love for God
  2. We can't love our neighbor unless we love God first.
  3. The key word in this section is "perfect" which means complete or mature
  4. We grow in love for God the Father as he responds to God's love for him
  5. We will consider four evidences in the life of the believer that his love for God is maturing

## III. Verses 4:17-19

- A. "Herein is our love made perfect, that we should have boldness in the Day of Judgment: because as He is, so are we in this world. 18 –There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. 19 – We love him, because he first loved us."
- B. *Verse 17* - "Herein is our love made perfect, that we should have boldness in the Day of Judgment: because as He is, so are we in this world."
  1. "Herein is our love made perfect"
    - a) Our love for God is not static
    - b) It grows day by day as we feed on his Word and walk in the light of His Word
    - c) When two people marry, their love grows year by year and deepens.
  2. *"that we should have boldness in the day of judgment."*
    - a) Although our sin was judged at the cross, we will stand before the judgment seat of Christ.
      - (1) 2 Cor. 5:10
      - (2) This is the judging of works, not of sin.

- (a) Heb. 10:17
    - (3) Matt. 12:36
    - (4) Rom. 10:14
  - b) The result is reward or loss of reward
    - (1) 1 Cor. 3:11-15
    - (2) Believers can lose rewards
      - (a) 2John 8
  - c) “Boldness” = confidence, freedom of speech.
    - (1) It doesn’t mean brazenness or brashness.
    - (2) A believer who is growing in his love for God grows in his confidence towards God
    - (3) He has a reverential fear, not a tormenting fear.
  - d) If we are walking with the Lord on a daily basis, we don’t have to be afraid of the Day of Judgment.
3. *“because as He is, so are we in this world”*
- a) We are in the world, but not of the world
    - (1) 2Cor. 5:20
    - (2) We represent Jesus to the world
      - (a) Unbelievers watch Christians
      - (b) 1Cor. 4:9

C. *Verse 18* – “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love”

1. Two new words introduced – “fear” and “torment”
  - a) A believer can live in fear and torment when they are not growing in their love for God.
  - b) “Fear” in this verse means “fear of judgment”.
    - (1) 1John 2:28
    - (2) Although the believer is judged, he does not have to fear judgment of the past, present, or future sin
      - (a) Heb. 9:27.
    - (3) The believer does not fear future judgment because Jesus Christ took the believer’s judgment for sin on the cross.
      - (a) John 5:24
      - (b) Rom 8:1
  - c) Positionally, we are as Christ is right now.
    - (1) If the Father deals with us as He deals with his own Son, how can we be afraid?
  - d) We don’t need to be afraid of the past
    - (1) 1John 4:10 – He first loved us
    - (2) Romans 5:10
  - e) We don’t need to be afraid of the present
    - (1) Perfect love casts out fear

(a) 1John 4:18

- f) We don't need to be afraid of the future
  - (1) Our sins were judged in Christ when He died on the cross.
- g) The proper fear of God does not produce torment.
  - (1) Rom. 8:15
  - (2) 2 Tim. 1:7
- h) God wants his children to live in a spirit of love and confidence, not fear and torment.
  - (1) Rom. 8:35-39
- i) Growing confidence in the presence of God is evidence that our love for God is maturing.

D. *Verse 19* – “We love him, because he first loved us.”

- 1. It's not difficult to love someone who loves us
  - a) He is nice to us
  - b) He does nice things for us
- 2. God loved us while we were his enemies.
  - a) He loved us in spite of ourselves.
- 3. When we were born again, we received a new nature.
  - a) That new nature automatically loves God because of who God is.
  - b) We love God because He sent His Son to die for us.

IV. *Verses 20-21* – “*If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? 21 - And this commandment have we from Him, That He who loveth God love his brother also.*”

A. *Verse 20* – “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?”

- 1. “If a man say” – here is a warning against pretending to be something that you are not.
- 2. It is easy to love those we associate with every day – friends and family.
- 3. It is not easy to love someone we have never seen.
- 4. When we are saved, God's Spirit comes into us. God brings in love and hate goes out. With God in our heart, we will love the brethren.
  - a) If we are right with God, we will be right with our brothers.
  - b) You may not love their ways or their habits, but you will love their soul.

B. *Verse 21* – “And this commandment have we from Him, That He who loveth God love his brother also.”

- 1. This is a command, not a suggestion
- 2. Proof of love for God is obedience
- 3. He who loves God must love his brother if he is to please God.

4. Spiritual adults must know themselves and be themselves.
  - a) Spiritual honesty brings peace and power to the person who practices it.
  - b) Because he knows God loves him and accepts him, he is not trying to impress others.
  - c) Confidence toward God and honesty with others are two marks of spiritual maturity.

V. 1 John 5:1-3 – *“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. 2 – By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. 3 – For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”*

A. *Verse 1* – “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.”

1. Faith is the heartbeat, the very life of Christian experience.
2. “Whosoever” refers to everyone in the world without distinction. Jesus died for every kind of man.
3. Everyone who believes that Jesus is God’s anointed one and all that is included in that statement is born of God, or saved.
4. We love “him that begat” – God the father who begot the believer.
5. We also “love him also that is begotten of him” – others that God “begat” – other born again believers.
6. All true believers belong to the family of God.

B. *Verse 2* – “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.”

1. We love others because the love of God abides in us.
2. God repeats himself because he knows that our memories are short and we have to be reminded.

C. *Verse 3* – “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”

1. “Grievous” = burdensome
2. The love of God in action is “doing” not “saying.”
3. John 15:12
  - a) We are to love each other as Jesus loves us.
    - (1) We should be willing to sacrifice as he sacrificed for us.
4. His commandment to love is not grievous. The more we love Him, the more capable we are of loving others as Jesus loves us.
5. One of the tests of maturing love is our personal attitude toward the Bible, because in the bible we find God’s will for our lives revealed.
  - a) An unsaved man considers the Bible an impossible book, mainly because he does not understand its spiritual message.
  - b) An immature Christian considers the demands of the Bible to be



burdensome.

(1) "Why do I have to do that?"

(2) "Wouldn't it be better to do this?"

c) The maturing Christian finds himself enjoying the Word of God and truly loving it. He reads the Bible not as a textbook, but as a love letter.

6. Review of maturing love

a) As our love for the Father matures, we have confidence and are no longer afraid of His will.

b) We are honest toward others and lose our fear of being rejected.

c) We have a new attitude towards the Word of God.

d) Sin ruins maturing love

(1) We lose our confidence toward God

(2) If we don't confess our sin, we start pretending in order to cover sin.

(3) Disobedience leads to dishonesty and both turn our hearts away from the Word of God.

e) Perfecting love produces joyful obedience.

VI. 1 John 5:4-5 – *“For whosoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 – Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”*

A. Verse 4 – *“For whosoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”*

1. –*“For whosoever is born of God”*

a) Greek = everything that is begotten of God

(1) Emphasizing “no exceptions”

(a) Every born-again Christian has victory

2. *“Overcometh the world”*

a) Jesus lived on the earth

(1) He overcame the world

(a) John 16:33

(2) We have his Holy Spirit dwelling within us.

b) Everything that happens to us is for our good and His glory.

(1) Rom 8:28-30

(2) Phil 1:6

(a) He WILL perform it.

3. *“And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”*

a) Here is the source of our victory

(1) We are born again

(2) We receive the new nature

(3) We have the Holy Spirit

b) Christians can backslide

- (1) Peter
  - (a) Denied his Lord
  - (b) He immediately repented
    - (i) Luke 22:54-62
  - (2) When true believers backslide, it doesn't last long.
- c) The just shall live by faith
  - (1) We are saved by God's grace through faith
    - (a) Eph. 2:8-9
  - (2) The just will live by this faith
    - (a) Hab. 2:4
    - (b) Gal. 3:11
  - (3) The world says, "Seeing is believing."
  - (4) Faith believes without seeing.

VII. Verse 5 - - *"Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"*

A. *The reason that some professing Christians can't overcome the world is because they have never been truly born again.*

- 1. True believers have victory because of their position in Christ.
  - a) This is spiritual victory.
    - (1) It is "victory in the end."
    - (2) Joseph probably didn't seem very victorious while he sat in jail for two years.
      - (a) But he was victorious in the end because of his faith in Jesus Christ.
      - (b) He remained faithful to his Lord no matter what the circumstances.
      - (c) He could say to his brothers, "You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good."
  - b) No matter what your circumstances, you can be assured of victory because of your relationship with Jesus Christ who has already "overcome the world."

B. *John uses the word "overcomer" as a synonym for born again Christians*

- 1. 1John 2:13-14
- 2. Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21
- 3. Because we are born again, we share God's victory.
- 4. It is a result of our faith in Jesus Christ.
- 5. We are identified with Christ
  - a) Descriptions of our spiritual position in Christ
    - (1) In the world - 1John 4:17
    - (2) Walk in the light - 1John 1:7
    - (3) Walk as He walked - 1 John 2:6
    - (4) In His death - Gal. 2:20

- (5) In His resurrection – Rom.6:4
- (6) When He ascended to heaven – Eph. 2:6
  - (a) Positionally, we sit above our enemies.
- (7) In His exaltation – Col. 3:4

A Civil War veteran used to wander from place to place, begging a bed and bite to eat and always talking about his friend “Mr. Lincoln.” Because of his injuries, he was unable to hold a steady job. But as long as he could keep going, he would chat about his beloved President.

“You say you knew Mr. Lincoln,” a skeptical bystander retorted one day. “I’m not so sure you did. Prove it!”

The old man replied, “Why sure, I can prove it. In fact, I have a piece of paper here that Mr. Lincoln himself signed and gave to me.”

From his old wallet, the man took out a much-folded piece of paper and showed it to the man

“I’m not much for reading,” he apologized, “but I know that’s Mr. Lincoln’s signature.”

“Man, do you know what you have here?” one of the spectators asked. “You have a generous federal pension authorized by President Lincoln. You don’t have to walk around like a poor beggar! Mr. Lincoln has made you rich!”

- b) John tells us that we do not have to walk around defeated, because Jesus Christ has made us victors. He has defeated every enemy and we share in His victory.
- c) The key to claiming God’s victory is – faith.
  - (1) Heb 11 tells us of great men and women who claimed victory by faith.
    - (a) They took God at his word and acted on it.
    - (b) He honored their faith.
    - (c) “Faith is not so much believing in spite of evidence, but obeying in spite of consequence.
- d) Victorious faith is the result of maturing love.
  - (1) The better we come to know and love Jesus Christ, the easier it is to trust Him.

## VIII. How do we get this kind of mature love?

A. *Cultivate a friendship with Christ*

1. Abraham was “the friend of God”
  - a) James 2:23
  - b) He separated himself from the world and did what God told him.
  - c) When he sinned, he confessed and went back to walking with God.

B. *This friendship will begin to influence our lives.*

1. Christian graces will start to show up in our life
  - a) Our thoughts will be cleaner
  - b) Our conversation will be more meaningful
  - c) Our desires will be more wholesome.
2. It will be a gradual process.

C. *Our friendship with Christ and our becoming like Him will lead to a deeper love for Christ.*

1. On a human level, friendship leads to love.
2. On a spiritual level, friendship with Christ ought to lead to love.
  - a) Love works out in our lives in daily obedience.
  - b) Christian love
    - (1) Not a passing emotion
    - (2) It is a permanent devotion
      - (a) A deep desire to please Christ and to do His will

D. *The more we know Him the better we love Him, and the better we love Him the more we become like Him*

1. Rom. 3:29

E. *The exciting life of faith*

1. Because God’s love is perfected in us
  - a) We have confidence toward Him
  - b) We do not live in fear
  - c) We can be honest and open
  - d) We don’t need to pretend
  - e) Our obedience is born of love, not fear.
  - f) We find His commandments are not burdensome
  - g) We can face the world with victorious faith
  - h) We overcome instead of being overcome.
  - i) Our life will be marked by confidence, honesty, joyful obedience, and victory.

## Quiet Time

1. Are you afraid of Judgment Day? Are you afraid of your sins being judged? Consider our study today and the assurance that our sin has been judged at the Cross. Do you know for sure that your sin has been judged and Jesus Christ has taken your punishment? If you aren't sure of this, consider whether or not you have been saved.
  
2. As a believer, you can come boldly to your Lord. Consider the following:
  - Positionally, we are as Christ is right now.
  - We don't need to be afraid of the past
  - We don't need to be afraid of the present
  - We don't need to be afraid of the future
  - The proper fear of God does not produce torment.
  - God wants his children to live in a spirit of love and confidence, not fear and torment.
  - Growing confidence in the presence of God is evidence that our love for God is maturing.

If you struggle in any of the above areas, review the verses in those areas that are contained in the lesson.

3. Do you love Jesus? Remember that love is not a passing emotion, but it is a permanent devotion. How is love for your Lord demonstrated in your life? Consider the following:
  - An unsaved man considers the Bible an impossible book, mainly because he does not understand its spiritual message.
  - An immature Christian considers the demands of the Bible to be burdensome.
    - (1) "Why do I have to do that?"
  - "Wouldn't it be better to do this?"
  - *The maturing Christian finds himself enjoying the Word of God and truly loving it. He reads the Bible not as a textbook, but as a love letter.*

*Where do you stand in the above valuation? Does that bother you? What do you want to do about it?*

4. Sin in your life can weaken your mature love for Christ. Are you losing confidence toward God? Are you pretending in order to cover unconfessed sin? Is your relationship to your Heavenly Father more important than the sin in your life?

THINK ABOUT IT

**1 John 4:17- 5:5**  
**Lesson 10**  
**Real Love Isn't "Kid Stuff"**

## I. Review

- A. *We talked about how to discern false teachers*
- B. *We talked about what it means to believe "Jesus Christ is come in the flesh."*
- C. *We talked about what it means to believe Jesus is the Son of God*

## II. Overview

- A. *Read 1 John 4: 17-5:5*
  1. We will now turn from discussing the love for other believers and consider our love for God
  2. We can't love our neighbor unless we love God first.
  3. The key word in this section is "perfect" which means complete or mature
  4. We grow in love for God the Father as he responds to God's love for him
  5. We will consider four evidences in the life of the believer that his love for God is maturing

## III. Verses 4:17-19

- A. "Herein is our love made perfect, that we should have boldness in the Day of Judgment: because as He is, so are we in this world. 18 –There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. 19 – We love him, because he first loved us."
- B. *Verse 17* - "Herein is our love made perfect, that we should have boldness in the Day of Judgment: because as He is, so are we in this world."
  1. "Herein is our love made perfect"
    - a) Our love for God is not static
    - b) It grows day by day as we feed on his Word and walk in the light of His Word
    - c) When two people marry, their love grows year by year and deepens.
  2. *"that we should have boldness in the day of judgment."*
    - a) Although our sin was judged at the cross, we will stand before the judgment seat of Christ.
      - (1) 2 Cor. 5:10
      - (2) This is the judging of works, not of sin.

- (a) Heb. 10:17
    - (3) Matt. 12:36
    - (4) Rom. 10:14
  - b) The result is reward or loss of reward
    - (1) 1 Cor. 3:11-15
    - (2) Believers can lose rewards
      - (a) 2John 8
  - c) “Boldness” = confidence, freedom of speech.
    - (1) It doesn’t mean brazenness or brashness.
    - (2) A believer who is growing in his love for God grows in his confidence towards God
    - (3) He has a reverential fear, not a tormenting fear.
  - d) If we are walking with the Lord on a daily basis, we don’t have to be afraid of the Day of Judgment.
- 3. *“because as He is, so are we in this world”*
  - a) We are in the world, but not of the world
    - (1) 2Cor. 5:20
    - (2) We represent Jesus to the world
      - (a) Unbelievers watch Christians
      - (b) 1Cor. 4:9

C. *Verse 18* – “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love”

- 1. Two new words introduced – “fear” and “torment”
  - a) A believer can live in fear and torment when they are not growing in their love for God.
  - b) “Fear” in this verse means “fear of judgment”.
    - (1) 1John 2:28
    - (2) Although the believer is judged, he does not have to fear judgment of the past, present, or future sin
      - (a) Heb. 9:27.
    - (3) The believer does not fear future judgment because Jesus Christ took the believer’s judgment for sin on the cross.
      - (a) John 5:24
      - (b) Rom 8:1
  - c) Positionally, we are as Christ is right now.
    - (1) If the Father deals with us as He deals with his own Son, how can we be afraid?
  - d) We don’t need to be afraid of the past
    - (1) 1John 4:10 – He first loved us
    - (2) Romans 5:10
  - e) We don’t need to be afraid of the present
    - (1) Perfect love casts out fear

(a) 1John 4:18

- f) We don't need to be afraid of the future
  - (1) Our sins were judged in Christ when He died on the cross.
- g) The proper fear of God does not produce torment.
  - (1) Rom. 8:15
  - (2) 2 Tim. 1:7
- h) God wants his children to live in a spirit of love and confidence, not fear and torment.
  - (1) Rom. 8:35-39
- i) Growing confidence in the presence of God is evidence that our love for God is maturing.

D. *Verse 19* – “We love him, because he first loved us.”

- 1. It's not difficult to love someone who loves us
  - a) He is nice to us
  - b) He does nice things for us
- 2. God loved us while we were his enemies.
  - a) He loved us in spite of ourselves.
- 3. When we were born again, we received a new nature.
  - a) That new nature automatically loves God because of who God is.
  - b) We love God because He sent His Son to die for us.

IV. *Verses 20-21* – “*If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? 21 - And this commandment have we from Him, That He who loveth God love his brother also.*”

A. *Verse 20* – “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?”

- 1. “If a man say” – here is a warning against pretending to be something that you are not.
- 2. It is easy to love those we associate with every day – friends and family.
- 3. It is not easy to love someone we have never seen.
- 4. When we are saved, God's Spirit comes into us. God brings in love and hate goes out. With God in our heart, we will love the brethren.
  - a) If we are right with God, we will be right with our brothers.
  - b) You may not love their ways or their habits, but you will love their soul.

B. *Verse 21* – “And this commandment have we from Him, That He who loveth God love his brother also.”

- 1. This is a command, not a suggestion
- 2. Proof of love for God is obedience
- 3. He who loves God must love his brother if he is to please God.



4. Spiritual adults must know themselves and be themselves.
  - a) Spiritual honesty brings peace and power to the person who practices it.
  - b) Because he knows God loves him and accepts him, he is not trying to impress others.
  - c) Confidence toward God and honesty with others are two marks of spiritual maturity.

V. 1 John 5:1-3 – *“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. 2 – By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. 3 – For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”*

A. *Verse 1* – “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.”

1. Faith is the heartbeat, the very life of Christian experience.
2. “Whosoever” refers to everyone in the world without distinction. Jesus died for every kind of man.
3. Everyone who believes that Jesus is God’s anointed one and all that is included in that statement is born of God, or saved.
4. We love “him that begat” – God the father who begot the believer.
5. We also “love him also that is begotten of him” – others that God “begat” – other born again believers.
6. All true believers belong to the family of God.

B. *Verse 2* – “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.”

1. We love others because the love of God abides in us.
2. God repeats himself because he knows that our memories are short and we have to be reminded.

C. *Verse 3* – “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”

1. “Grievous” = burdensome
2. The love of God in action is “doing” not “saying.”
3. John 15:12
  - a) We are to love each other as Jesus loves us.
    - (1) We should be willing to sacrifice as he sacrificed for us.
4. His commandment to love is not grievous. The more we love Him, the more capable we are of loving others as Jesus loves us.
5. One of the tests of maturing love is our personal attitude toward the Bible, because in the bible we find God’s will for our lives revealed.
  - a) An unsaved man considers the Bible an impossible book, mainly because he does not understand its spiritual message.
  - b) An immature Christian considers the demands of the Bible to be

burdensome.

(1) "Why do I have to do that?"

(2) "Wouldn't it be better to do this?"

c) The maturing Christian finds himself enjoying the Word of God and truly loving it. He reads the Bible not as a textbook, but as a love letter.

6. Review of maturing love

a) As our love for the Father matures, we have confidence and are no longer afraid of His will.

b) We are honest toward others and lose our fear of being rejected.

c) We have a new attitude towards the Word of God.

d) Sin ruins maturing love

(1) We lose our confidence toward God

(2) If we don't confess our sin, we start pretending in order to cover sin.

(3) Disobedience leads to dishonesty and both turn our hearts away from the Word of God.

e) Perfecting love produces joyful obedience.

VI. 1 John 5:4-5 – *“For whosoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 – Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”*

A. Verse 4 – *“For whosoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”*

1. –*“For whosoever is born of God”*

a) Greek = everything that is begotten of God

(1) Emphasizing “no exceptions”

(a) Every born-again Christian has victory

2. *“Overcometh the world”*

a) Jesus lived on the earth

(1) He overcame the world

(a) John 16:33

(2) We have his Holy Spirit dwelling within us.

b) Everything that happens to us is for our good and His glory.

(1) Rom 8:28-30

(2) Phil 1:6

(a) He WILL perform it.

3. *“And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”*

a) Here is the source of our victory

(1) We are born again

(2) We receive the new nature

(3) We have the Holy Spirit

b) Christians can backslide

- (1) Peter
  - (a) Denied his Lord
  - (b) He immediately repented
    - (i) Luke 22:54-62
  - (2) When true believers backslide, it doesn't last long.
- c) The just shall live by faith
  - (1) We are saved by God's grace through faith
    - (a) Eph. 2:8-9
  - (2) The just will live by this faith
    - (a) Hab. 2:4
    - (b) Gal. 3:11
  - (3) The world says, "Seeing is believing."
  - (4) Faith believes without seeing.

VII. Verse 5 - - *"Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"*

A. *The reason that some professing Christians can't overcome the world is because they have never been truly born again.*

1. True believers have victory because of their position in Christ.
  - a) This is spiritual victory.
    - (1) It is "victory in the end."
    - (2) Joseph probably didn't seem very victorious while he sat in jail for two years.
      - (a) But he was victorious in the end because of his faith in Jesus Christ.
      - (b) He remained faithful to his Lord no matter what the circumstances.
      - (c) He could say to his brothers, "You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good."
  - b) No matter what your circumstances, you can be assured of victory because of your relationship with Jesus Christ who has already "overcome the world."

B. *John uses the word "overcomer" as a synonym for born again Christians*

1. 1John 2:13-14
2. Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21
3. Because we are born again, we share God's victory.
4. It is a result of our faith in Jesus Christ.
5. We are identified with Christ
  - a) Descriptions of our spiritual position in Christ
    - (1) In the world - 1John 4:17
    - (2) Walk in the light - 1John 1:7
    - (3) Walk as He walked - 1 John 2:6
    - (4) In His death - Gal. 2:20

- (5) In His resurrection – Rom.6:4
- (6) When He ascended to heaven – Eph. 2:6
  - (a) Positionally, we sit above our enemies.
- (7) In His exaltation – Col. 3:4

A Civil War veteran used to wander from place to place, begging a bed and bite to eat and always talking about his friend “Mr. Lincoln.” Because of his injuries, he was unable to hold a steady job. But as long as he could keep going, he would chat about his beloved President.

“You say you knew Mr. Lincoln,” a skeptical bystander retorted one day. “I’m not so sure you did. Prove it!”

The old man replied, “Why sure, I can prove it. In fact, I have a piece of paper here that Mr. Lincoln himself signed and gave to me.”

From his old wallet, the man took out a much-folded piece of paper and showed it to the man

“I’m not much for reading,” he apologized, “but I know that’s Mr. Lincoln’s signature.”

“Man, do you know what you have here?” one of the spectators asked. “You have a generous federal pension authorized by President Lincoln. You don’t have to walk around like a poor beggar! Mr. Lincoln has made you rich!”

- b) John tells us that we do not have to walk around defeated, because Jesus Christ has made us victors. He has defeated every enemy and we share in His victory.
- c) The key to claiming God’s victory is – faith.
  - (1) Heb 11 tells us of great men and women who claimed victory by faith.
    - (a) They took God at his word and acted on it.
    - (b) He honored their faith.
    - (c) “Faith is not so much believing in spite of evidence, but obeying in spite of consequence.
- d) Victorious faith is the result of maturing love.
  - (1) The better we come to know and love Jesus Christ, the easier it is to trust Him.

## VIII. How do we get this kind of mature love?

A. *Cultivate a friendship with Christ*

1. Abraham was “the friend of God”
  - a) James 2:23
  - b) He separated himself from the world and did what God told him.
  - c) When he sinned, he confessed and went back to walking with God.

B. *This friendship will begin to influence our lives.*

1. Christian graces will start to show up in our life
  - a) Our thoughts will be cleaner
  - b) Our conversation will be more meaningful
  - c) Our desires will be more wholesome.
2. It will be a gradual process.

C. *Our friendship with Christ and our becoming like Him will lead to a deeper love for Christ.*

1. On a human level, friendship leads to love.
2. On a spiritual level, friendship with Christ ought to lead to love.
  - a) Love works out in our lives in daily obedience.
  - b) Christian love
    - (1) Not a passing emotion
    - (2) It is a permanent devotion
      - (a) A deep desire to please Christ and to do His will

D. *The more we know Him the better we love Him, and the better we love Him the more we become like Him*

1. Rom. 3:29

E. *The exciting life of faith*

1. Because God’s love is perfected in us
  - a) We have confidence toward Him
  - b) We do not live in fear
  - c) We can be honest and open
  - d) We don’t need to pretend
  - e) Our obedience is born of love, not fear.
  - f) We find His commandments are not burdensome
  - g) We can face the world with victorious faith
  - h) We overcome instead of being overcome.
  - i) Our life will be marked by confidence, honesty, joyful obedience, and victory.

## Quiet Time

1. Are you afraid of Judgment Day? Are you afraid of your sins being judged? Consider our study today and the assurance that our sin has been judged at the Cross. Do you know for sure that your sin has been judged and Jesus Christ has taken your punishment? If you aren't sure of this, consider whether or not you have been saved.
  
2. As a believer, you can come boldly to your Lord. Consider the following:
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If you struggle in any of the above areas, review the verses in those areas that are contained in the lesson.

3. Do you love Jesus? Remember that love is not a passing emotion, but it is a permanent devotion. How is love for your Lord demonstrated in your life? Consider the following:
  - An unsaved man considers the Bible an impossible book, mainly because he does not understand its spiritual message.
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*Where do you stand in the above valuation? Does that bother you? What do you want to do about it?*

4. Sin in your life can weaken your mature love for Christ. Are you losing confidence toward God? Are you pretending in order to cover unconfessed sin? Is your relationship to your Heavenly Father more important than the sin in your life?

THINK ABOUT IT

1 John 5:6-5:21  
Lesson 11  
Consider the Evidence

## I. Review

- A. *We talked about how we can't love our neighbor unless we love God first.*
- B. *We talked about four evidences in the life of the believer that his love for God is maturing.*
- C. *We talked about victory in life on earth because of our position in Christ.*

## II. Overview

- A. *Read 1 John 5:6 -5:21*
  - 1. Biblical certainties
    - a) Jesus is God
    - b) Believers have eternal life
    - c) God answers prayer
    - d) Christians don't practice sin.
    - e) The Christian life is the real life.

III. Jesus is God - Verses 6-10 – *“This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. 7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one. 8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood; and these three agree in one. 9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. 10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself; he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.”*

- A. Evidence that Jesus is God
  - 1. Verse 6 – *“This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.”*
    - a) Most agree that the “blood” refers to the blood of Christ.
    - b) There are many different interpretations as to what “water” means in this verse.
      - (1) *MacArthur and Wiersbe define it as Jesus' water baptism*
        - (a) Matt. 3:13-17
        - (b) Water and blood are the objective witnesses as to who Christ was.
        - (c) Those to whom John was writing had been

exposed to the false teaching that the “Christ spirit” came down on Jesus at his baptism and left Jesus at the cross (“My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?”) and he died like any other human being.

(2) *Green defines it as a synonym for “the Word.”*

(a) John 15:3

(b) Eph. 5:25-26

(c) Titus 3:5 – “washing of regeneration”

(3) *Others say “water” refers to the “water” in human birth.*

(a) Jesus was the God-Man who shed His blood for us.

(4) *Matthew Henry*

(a) “By” could be translated “with”

(i) Jesus came with “water” and “blood”

(b) We are defiled inwardly by our sin nature

(i) We need spiritual “water” – washing of regeneration.

(c) We are defiled outwardly by guilt and the condemning power of sin upon our persons.

(d) Both inward and outward cleansing were represented in the old ceremonial institutions of God. Persons and things must be purified by water and blood.

(i) Heb. 9:10, 13

(ii) Num. 19:9

(iii) Heb. 9:22

(e) John 19:34-35

(i) Water and blood are comprehensive of all that is necessary and effectual to our salvation.

*(a) By water our souls are washed and purified for heaven.*

*(b) By blood God is glorified, his law is honoured and we are justified, sanctified, and presented righteous before God*

c) The “Spirit” bore witness at Jesus baptism that Jesus was God’s Son.

2. *Verse 7 - “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one.”*

a) “The Word” = Jesus Christ

(1) *John 1:1*

b) Trinity

3. *Verse 8 - “And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the*



*water, and the blood; and these three agree in one.”*

- a) The Spirit – Holy Spirit
    - (1) *Rom 8:15-16*
  - b) The water – baptismal water/Word of God/ purity of the Savior
  - c) Blood – blood of Jesus
  - d) These three are in agreement that Jesus is the Son of God
4. Importance of three witnesses.
- a) *Deut. 19:15*

#### B. God’s testimony concerning the Son

1. Verse 9 - *“If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.”*

- a) As children, we believe our parents
- b) As students, we believe our teachers
- c) We believe accounts in our history books
- d) We believe George Washington was the first president
- e) We believe what astronauts say about outer space
- f) God’s report is surely more reliable than the testimony of man.

(1) *Heb. 6:18*

(2) *Tit. 1:2*

(3) *Rom. 3:4*

(4) *John 12:27-30*

2. Verse 10 - *“He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself; he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.”*

- a) When God saves a person, He puts the Witness within that person’s heart.

(1) *1 John 3:24*

(2) *If you refuse to believe what God says, you are calling Him a liar.*

- b) What is included in the record God gave of his Son?

(1) *John 5:24*

(2) *1 Pet. 1:23*

(3) *Rom 8:31-39*

(4) *1 John 4:4*

(5) *Matt. 6:33*

(6) *1 Pet. 1:3-5*

(7) *John 14:1-3*

IV. Believers have eternal life - Verses 11-13 – 11“*And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*”

## A. The Record - Believers have eternal life

1. Verse 11 - "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."

- a) Here is a summary of what God has given us.
- b) Note - "given" - not earned
- c) Note - "hath" - in the past
- d) Note - we are not saved by "trying"
  - (1) *We are not saved by "tarrying at the altar"*
  - (2) *We are not saved by "weeping"*
  - (3) *We are not saved by "pleading"*
- e) We are saved by accepting the "gift of God."
- f) Note - God has given us "eternal life" not temporary probation.
- g) This life is in his Son
  - (1) *Jesus doesn't "show" us the way - He is the Way*
  - (2) *Jesus doesn't "open" the door - He is the Door*

2. Verse 12 - "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

- a) Short and simple - black and white
- b) Salvation is someone, not something
- c) Rom. 8:1
- d) Col. 1:12-14

3. Verse 13 - "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

- a) Note - "that ye may KNOW"
  - (1) *Not think, or hope, or feel*
- b) He wrote this letter to us so we can KNOW
- c) Review of characteristics of a child of God
  - (1) *He practices righteousness (2:29)*
  - (2) *He does not practice sin (3:9)*
  - (3) *He loves the brethren (3:14)*
  - (4) *He overcomes the world (5:4)*

V. God answers Prayer - Verses 14-15 - 15 "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us: 15 And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him."

## A. God wants us to have biblical confidence.

- 1. Toward God (3:21)
- 2. At the Day of Judgment (2:28)
- 3. About our salvation (5:13)

## B. Conditions for answered prayer

- 1. A heart that does not condemn us (3:21-22)
- 2. No unconfessed sin in our life ((Ps. 66:18)

3. No unresolved marriage differences (1 Pet. 3:1-7)
4. No unresolved relationships with Christian brothers (Matt. 5:23-25)
5. We must be abiding in Christ (John 15:7)
6. Praying in God's will
  - a) George Mueller said, "Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance. It is laying hold of God's willingness."
  - b) Most of the time we can determine God's will by reading the Word and listening to the Spirit (Rom. 8:26-27)
  - c) We can claim promises in scripture.
  - d) If it is God's will for me to have something, why do I need to pray about it?
    - (1) *Prayer is the way God wants his children to get what they need.*
    - (2) *Elijah*
      - (a) 1 Kings 18:1, 41-44
      - (b) James 5:17-18
    - (3) *God ordains the end and also the means to the end.*
    - (4) *Prayer is the thermometer of our spiritual life.*

#### C. Assurance of answered prayer

1. "We know" – present tense, not future.
  - a) We can have assurance that God has answered our prayer even before we see the evidence.
    - (1) *Heb. 11:1*
  - b) Matt. 6:6
  - c) Matt. 7:7
  - d) Heb. 4:16
2. What breathing is to the physical man, prayer is to the spiritual man.
  - a) 1 Thess. 5:17
3. Though He was God in the flesh, Jesus depended on prayer.
  - a) He rose early in the morning - Mark 1:35
  - b) He prayed all night - Luke 6:12
  - c) He wept – Heb. 5:7
  - d) On the cross, He prayed three times.

VI. Christians don't practice sin - Verses 16-19 – "If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it. 17 All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death. 18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not. 19 And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

A. Verse 16 - "If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it."

1. The “sin unto death” and the “unpardonable sin” are two different kinds of sin.
  - a) The unpardonable sin is committed by unbelievers.
    - (1) *It is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit – Matt. 12:31-32*
      - (a) A believer indwelt, led, and sealed by the Holy Spirit would not blaspheme the Holy Spirit
      - (b) It is to the destruction of the soul.
2. The sin unto death is committed by believers.
  - a) If a born again Christian sees a born again brother commit a sin which is not unto death, he can pray for that sin, and God will give life.
  - b) It is continually rebelling against light. When a believer knows what he should do and yet refuses to obey the Holy Spirit, he is in danger of committing the sin unto death.
  - c) Examples of the “sin unto death.”
    - (1) *Nadab and Abihu – Lev. 10:1-7*
    - (2) *Korah – Num. 16*
    - (3) *Achan – Josh. 6-7*
    - (4) *Uzzah – 2 Sam. 6*
    - (5) *1 Cor. 11:20-22, 27-30*
    - (6) *1 Cor. 5:1-5*
  - d) It results in loss of reward, not loss of salvation.
    - (1) *1 Cor. 3:12-15*
  - e) If a believer does not judge, confess, and forsake sin, God must chasten him.
    - (1) *Heb. 12:1-13*
      - (a) First God “spanks” his rebellious children, and if they do not yield to His will, He may remove them from the world lest their disobedience lead other astray and bring further disgrace to His name.
  - f) The “sin unto death” is a kind of sin, not one specific sin.
    - (1) *Don’t pray for the sin unto death*
      - (a) *Jer. 7:16*

B. Verse 17 - “All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.”

1. Sin is transgression of the law
  - a) *1 John 3:4*
2. Although sin is sin, there is a distinction between sins.

C. Verse 18 - “We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.”

1. A born again Christian does not have a sinful lifestyle.
2. “He that is begotten of God” = Jesus

3. "Keepeth himself" = guards him, the believer
4. Satan can only go as far as God allows him
  - a) Luke 22:31-32
  - b) 1 Cor. 10:13
5. "Toucheth him not" = lays no hold on him.
6. Paraphrase – We know that a born again believer does not lead a sinful lifestyle, but Jesus keeps the believer and won't let Satan lay hold of him.

D. Verse 19 – "And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness."

1. There are only two types of people – children of God and children of Satan.

VII. The Christian life is real - Verse 20 - 21 "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. 21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

A. Verse 20 - "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

1. Because we are in him that is true, we have spiritual understanding
  - a) 1 Cor. 2:14
2. Jesus Christ is the true God and eternal life.
  - a) True, as opposed to that which is false.

B. Verse - 21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

1. This verse is again written to believers.
2. John was probably writing to Ephesus
3. Ephesus was a city given over to idol worship.
  - a) Location of the temple of Diana
  - b) Making and selling of idols was the chief occupation  
(1) Acts 19:21-41
4. Christians were under great pressure to conform.
5. Idols had no real existence – they were not living.
6. Because we know the true God, we are in contact with reality.
7. Our modern day "idols" capture our attention. They are just as "unreal" as stone idols. Jesus Christ is reality.
8. The thing that we serve is the thing that we worship. When things take God's place in our lives, we are guilty of idolatry. This means we are living for the unreal instead of for the real.

## Quiet Time

1. Look at 1 John 5:6-10. Could you prove from these verses that Jesus is God? Could you prove from other verses that Jesus is God?
2. Have you ever considered that those who do not believe that Jesus is the Son of God are calling God a liar? Could you explain to an unbeliever what Jesus being the Son of God means? If not, restudy the lessons in 1 John concerning who Jesus really is.
3. 1 John 5:13 says that we can KNOW that we have eternal life. Think of how you can explain to an unbeliever that you KNOW you have eternal life without sounding like you are arrogant.
4. Are you satisfied with your prayer life? Does God answer your prayers? If not, consider the conditions for answered prayer. Are there areas in your life that hinder your prayer life? Are you willing to change those areas so that you are on "praying ground?" How important is your prayer life?
5. Do you care whether you are praying in God's will? Are you more interested in determining what God wants or getting what you want? Are you willing to dig into God's word to see what He wants, or is it too much trouble?
6. Do you understand the difference between the "sin unto death" and "the unpardonable sin?" Are there sin areas in your life that you are unwilling to change? Are they so important that you are willing to be disciplined for them? Do you really believe that God will discipline you or do you think that your sins aren't "really that bad?"
7. Do you realize that if you are a born again Christian, Jesus guards you and Satan can only touch you to the extent that Jesus allows? And Jesus will give you the ability to withstand what He allows Satan to do. What a blessing!!
8. Are you tempted by "idols" in your life? Are you willing to get rid of them? If not, are you willing to ask God to change your heart? How important is your relationship to Jesus Christ? How important is your prayer life? Remember that Idols are not real. Jesus Christ is real. What is more important?

THINK ABOUT IT

2 John  
Lesson 1  
Christian Hospitality

## I. 2 John Review

### A. Title, author and date

1. This is the second of the three letters that John wrote.
  - a) He refers to himself as “elder” referring to his advanced age and authority in the early church.
  - b) Probably written around the same time as 1<sup>st</sup> John (1) From Ephesus
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> John are the shortest epistles in the New Testament
  - a) Less than 300 Greek words each
3. This letter also deals with false teachers, as did 1 John
  - a) The main difference is that 1 John was not addressed to anyone in particular. 2 John is addressed to an individual.
4. False teachers were conducting an itinerant ministry among John’s congregations, seeking to make converts, and taking advantage of Christian hospitality to advance their cause.
  - a) The individual addressed in the greeting inadvertently or unwisely may have shown these false prophets hospitality, or John may have feared that the false teachers would attempt to take advantage of her kindness.
5. Here are the biblical guidelines for hospitality
  - a) Gracious hospitality must be discriminating
  - b) The basis of hospitality must be a common love of the truth.
  - c) 2 John is in direct opposition to ecumenism
6. Main lesson – Truth determines the bounds of love
  - a) The basis of Christian hospitality
  - b) *The behavior of Christian hospitality*
  - c) The bounds of Christian hospitality
  - d) The blessings of Christian hospitality

### B. 2 John

1 ¶ *The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth; 2 For the truth’s sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever. 3 Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. 4 I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father. 5 And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a*

*new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another. 6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it. 7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. 8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. 9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. 10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds. 12 Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full. 13 The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen.*

II. Verses 1-3 – The basis of Christian hospitality – *“1 The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth; 2 For the truth’s sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever. 3 Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.”*

- A. *“The elder” refers to John’s age and status in the early church.*
- B. *“Elect lady and her children” – probably refers to a particular woman and her children. This interpretation fits the natural understanding of the context.*
  - 1. He loves them in the truth – the basis for hospitality
    - a) John accentuates the need for truth, repeating the word five times in the first four verses.
  - 2. The elect lady may have shown hospitality like Mary, Martha, and Lazarus did.
    - a) She was obviously saved.
    - b) Some say that it refers to a local church and the membership
- C. *Truth is the basis of Christian love.*
  - 1. The deity of Christ is again emphasized from the phrase “the Son of the Father.”
- D. *Grace – unmerited favor, getting what you don’t deserve*
- E. *Mercy – not getting what you do deserve*
- F. *Peace – supernatural peace*
  - 1. John 14:27
  - 2. Is. 26:3



*G. This is available to us because of our position in Christ.*

III. Verses 4-6 – The Behavior of Christian Hospitality. - 4 *“I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father. 5 And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another. 6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.”*

A. *Verse 4* - “I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.”

1. “Children walking in truth, as we received commandment.”
  - a) “Walking” = continually walking in truth, making obedience to truth a habit in one’s life.
  - b) 1 John 3:23

B. *Verse 5* – “And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.”

1. *“Not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.”*

- a) Here is the tie between the commandment of truth and the commandment to love

C. *Verse 6* – “And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.”

1. He goes on to define “love” as walking after his commandments.
  - a) “Love” is not an emotion, but obedience.
  - b) If we are obedient to the fundamentals of the faith, we are walking in love.

IV. Verses 7-11 – The bounds of Christian hospitality - 7 *“For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. 8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. 9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. 10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.”*

A. *Verse 7* – “For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.”

1. Here John gives the limits for Christian hospitality
  - a) These limits are the central thought in this epistle
  - b) Satan can come as an angel of light
    - (1) 2 Cor. 11:13-15

c) We as believers must be intimately acquainted with truth so we can discern error.

2. “Deceivers”

a) Described as those who don’t believe that Jesus was the Christ come in the flesh.

b) Habitual denial of the divinity and humanity of Jesus Christ

c) Those who teach that Jesus was a great teacher or a great man

d) Those who attack the incarnation or virgin birth

B. . Verse 8 – “Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.”

1. “*those things which we have wrought*” = those things we have worked for.

2. This is referring to rewards, not salvation

a) Matt 10:41

b) Matt 25:40

c) Mark 9:41

3. A loss of reward may occur to any believer who does not discriminate fellowship on the basis of adherence to the truth.

a) Col. 2:18-19; 3:24-25

b) 1 Cor. 3:11-15

C. Verse 9 – “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”

1. Failure to be faithful to the fundamentals of the faith (a Biblical view of the person and work of Christ, love, and obedience) marks a person as not being saved.

2. “*Abide*” = has the idea of constant adherence.

3. Doctrine of Christ

a) Pre-existence

b) Trinity

c) Virgin birth

d) Death

e) Resurrection

f) Ascension

g) Verses

(1) John 1:18

(2) John 5:23

(3) John 10:27-30

(4) John 15:23

(5) 1 John 2:23

D. Verse 10 – “If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:”

1. This does not pertain to those who disagree about minor matters.

2. These are false teachers trying to destroy the fundamentals of Christianity.
  - a) 2 Cor. 11:13-15
  - b) Matt 7:15-23
3. This commands complete disassociation
  - a) Don't even greet them.
  - b) Shouldn't we try to evangelize them?
    - (1) Matt. 7:6
    - (2) Pr. 19:27
4. *"neither bid him God speed:"*
  - a) Don't do any of the following to encourage him.
    - (1) If he comes to your door, don't listen to him or wish him "Good day."
    - (2) Don't buy his books or literature.
    - (3) Don't give money

*E. Verse 11* – "For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

1. Hospitality to these aids the spread of their heresy
  - a) It leaves the impression of sanctioning their teachings.
  - b) Any kind of support is contributing to the enemies of Jesus Christ.

V. Verses 12-13 – The blessing of Christian hospitality - 12 *"Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full. 13 The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen."*

*A. Verse 12* - "Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full."

1. Paper = papyrus
  - a) 2 John could be written on one sheet of papyrus
2. Ink = black, a mixture of water, charcoal, and gum resin

*B. Verse 13* – *"The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen."*

1. This would refer to her nieces and nephews.
  - a) They were sending their greetings through John

## VI. Recap

*A. This book tells us how we should treat teachers of error.*

1. Don't encourage them
2. Don't fellowship with them

*B. We are to be kind to sinners and unbelievers in an effort to win them to Christ.*

## Quiet Time

1. Are you hospitable? Do you enjoy having people in your home? Do you use discernment as to who visits you? Are you aware of the scriptural guidelines for hospitality? If not, reread 2 John.
2. Do you hold fast to the fundamentals of the faith? Sometimes a person will say, "I've heard this before, I don't need to hear it again." Consider how many times different topics are repeated in the scripture. We need to be well grounded in the faith and that requires repetition. Are you well enough grounded that you can recognize error immediately? If not, study those areas where you are weak so you are better equipped to stand strong.
3. Are you willing to "offend" a deceiver that comes to your door (like a JW) in order to be obedient to the Lord, or is it more important to you to "be nice", so you will be liked?
4. Do you know what the "doctrine of Christ" includes? Make a list of the fundamentals of the faith. Then when you hear a "religious leader," use this list as a guideline to evaluate whether or not he is a deceiver. Remember that we are talking about fundamentals, not minor points of doctrine.

THINK ABOUT IT

3rd John  
Lesson 1  
Christian Hospitality – Part 2

## I. 3rd John Review

### A. *Title, author and date*

1. This is the third of the three letters that John wrote.
  - a) He refers to himself as “elder” referring to his advanced age and authority in the early church.
  - b) Probably written around the same time as 2nd John
    - (1) From Ephesus
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> John are the shortest epistles in the New Testament
  - a) Less than 300 Greek words each
3. This letter is probably the most personal of John’s three epistles.
  - a) It is written to Gaius
    - (1) This was a common first century name
    - (2) We know nothing else about Gaius
    - (3) It appears that he was a member of a local church.
4. While 2<sup>nd</sup> John focuses on instruction for hospitality to false teachers, 3<sup>rd</sup> John focuses on hospitality to faithful ministers of the Word.
  - a) It seems that reports had come back to John that itinerant preachers that he knew and approved of had been denied hospitality by an individual named Diotrephes.
    - (1) He also slandered John
5. Main lesson – The Christian standards of Christian hospitality and condemnation for failing to follow those standards
  - a) The condemnation regarding Christian hospitality (1-8)
  - b) The condemnation regarding violating Christian hospitality (9-11)
  - c) The conclusion regarding Christian hospitality (12-14)

### B. *3rd John*

1 “The elder unto the well beloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth. 2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. 3. For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. 5. Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers; 6. Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well: 7. Because that for his name’s sake, they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles. 8. We therefore

ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth. 9. I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. 10. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church, 11. Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God. 12. Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record, and ye know that our record is true. 13. I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee: 14. But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name.

II. Verses 1-8 – The commendation regarding Christian hospitality – 1 “The elder unto the well beloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth. 2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. 3. For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. 5. Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers; 6. Which have bourn witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well: 7. Because that for his name’s sake, they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles. 8. We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.”

A. Verse 1 - “*The elder unto the well beloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.*”

1. Gaius - a name mentioned four other times in the New Testament.
  - a) Gaius who Paul baptized (1 Cor. 1:15)
  - b) Gaius of Macedonia (Acts 19:29)
  - c) Gaius of Derby (Acts 20:4)
  - d) Gaius was a very common name and there is no way of proving one of these persons was the Gaius referred to in this letter.
2. This Gaius appears to be a person with influence in the church.
3. He was possibly wealthy
4. He was good friends with John (well beloved)
  - a) “Well beloved” is a term only used for Christians in the New Testament.
5. He and John were brothers in the faith. (“in the truth”)

B. Verse 2 – “*Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.*”

1. The word Greek word translated “wish” here is translated “pray” in other places in the New Testament.
2. John prayed for Gaius.
3. John prayed that Gaius would be as prosperous in material things and in health as he was spiritually.

- a) Here is an indication that Gaius was unusual in his spiritual life.
- 4. "Prosper" - indicates success and happiness (in business, family, etc.)
  - a) Rom. 1:10
  - b) 1 Cor. 16:2
- 5. We can pray for prosperity and health for friends
  - a) Not for the glory of the man but so the man can serve the Lord as effectively as possible

*C. Verse 3 - "For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth."*

- 1. We don't know who the "brethren" were.
- 2. They visited John and had nothing but praise for Gaius.
- 3. Gaius not only did "lip service" to the truth (testified of the truth) but practiced what he preached ("walkest in the truth")
- 4. Gaius actions were in stark contrast to Diotrophes's negative reputation in verse 10.

*D. Verse 4 - "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."*

- 1. The word "children" probably indicates that Gaius was a convert of John.
- 2. Do you take joy when you find someone who you led to the Lord continuing to serve Him?

*E. Verse 5 - "Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;"*

- 1. "Thou doest faithfully"
  - a) Genuine faith produces genuine good works.
  - b) There is consistency
    - (1) He isn't affected by "mood"
  - c) He ministers to brethren and strangers
    - (1) Refers to itinerant preachers
    - (2) Refers to believers

*F. Verse - 6. Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:*

- 1. Brethren have borne witness of the kindness and love manifested by Gaius.
- 2. "whom if thou bring forward on their journey"
  - a) Could be translated, "whom having brought forward on their journey"
  - b) It could have been money, food, lodging, etc.
- 3. "after a godly sort" = in a manner worthy of God
  - a) Treating people as God would treat them.
  - b) Col. 1:10
  - c) 1 Thess. 2:12
  - d) Matt. 10:40

## e) Matt 25:40-45

*G. Verse 7 – “Because that for his name’s sake, they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.”*

1. “Because that for his name’s sake” – these brethren were traveling in the interest of the Lord’s business and in the interest of the church, and not for their own sakes.
2. “taking nothing of the Gentiles.”
  - a) The traveling preachers took their support only from believers, not unbelievers.
  - b) They didn’t want to be accused of preaching to “make money.”
  - c) Believers are told to support those who preach the gospel.
    - (1) Luke 10:7
    - (2) 1 Cor. 9:14

*H. Verse 8 – “We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.”*

1. Grounds for Godly hospitality
  - a) They must have godly motives (“for His name sake”)
    - (1) Rom 1:5
  - b) They must be ministering for God’s glory, not their own.
  - c) They must not be ministering for the money.
  - d) When we show hospitality, we participate in their ministry.
    - (1) 2 John 10 (We share in their deeds, good or bad).

III. Verses 9-11 – The condemnation regarding Christian hospitality. “9. I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. 10. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church, 11. Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.”

*A. Verse 9 – “I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not”*

1. John had written a previous letter to the church
2. Diotrephes apparently didn’t read it because he rejected John’s authority
3. “who loveth to have the preeminence among them,”
  - a) We don’t know if Diotrephes was a deacon, but he was apparently an important man in that local church
  - b) “preeminence” = desiring to be first
    - (1) Suggests someone who is selfish and self-centered.
    - (2) Self promoting
    - (3) The opposite of Jesus’ teaching on leadership
      - (a) Matt. 20:20-28



(b) Phil. 2:5-11

(c) 1 Tim. 3:3

- c) He modeled the opposite of kindness and hospitality toward God's servants.
- d) In denying John's authority, he denied the revelation that came through John.
- e) He had a "the church belongs to me" attitude.

*B. Verse 10 - "Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church,"*

1. John was going to hold Diotrephes accountable; he wasn't going to overlook it.
2. Diotrephes was guilty of four things.
  - a) "Prating against us" = bubble up, empty jabber, talking nonsense, one who talks too much without saying anything.
  - b) "Malicious words"
    - (1) The charges were not only false, but they were evil.
  - c) Not receiving the brethren
  - d) Excommunicating those who showed hospitality to the brethren.

*C. Verse 11 - "Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God."*

1. It is obvious that John had Diotrephes in mind when he wrote this verse.
2. John was cautioning Gaius not to be influenced by Diotrephes
3. Diotrephes' behavior was an indication that he wasn't saved.
  - a) 1 John 5:1-2

IV. Verses 12-14 - The conclusion regarding Christian hospitality - "Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record, and ye know that our record is true. 13. I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee: 14. But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name."

*A. Verse 12 - "Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record, and ye know that our record is true."*

1. Demetrius is the contrast to Diotrephes.
  - a) He has a good testimony
  - b) He practices the truth of God in his life.
2. "we also bear record, and ye know that our record is true."
  - a) John had enough of a good testimony that the believers knew that they could trust what he said.

*B. Verse 13-14 - . I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto*

*thee: 14. But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name.*

1. Same words that closed 2 John
2. He wanted to talk to Gaius face to face.  
John had a personal interest in each person (by name).

## Quiet Time

1. What is your spiritual status? Would you like your financial status to mirror your spiritual status? Would you like your physical health to mirror your spiritual health? If not, what does that say about your spiritual status? Do you care? .Are you willing to read, learn and grow so you are “spiritually fit?” Remember that what you put into your body and how you exercise it has a dramatic effect on your physical well being. In the same way, how you feed your spirit and exercise it affects your “spiritual status.”
2. Consider the testimony that Gaius had. He not only preached the truth, but practiced what he preached. Consider someone who practices what she preaches. Do you praise her when asked about her? Or do you praise her, then add something negative because you are a little bit jealous? If someone were asked about how you are doing, what would they say? Would their report be of someone who was pleasing God and practicing what she “preaches”?
3. Have you ever led someone to the Lord? Have you disciplined them, then they moved, or you moved, away? When you see or talk to them again, are you excited to see their growth in truth and service? How about your children or grandchildren, do you encourage them in their Christian walk (or seek to lead them to the Lord if they are not saved)? Are you willing to invest the time and effort into others to help them see the truth and to incorporate it into their lives?
4. Do you show genuine hospitality to both those you know and those you don't know? Have you ever had a missionary family in your home for dinner? Have you had a missionary family stay in your home for several days during special meetings? If not, you are missing a special blessing. Why not volunteer to house special speakers or serve them a meal the next time you have the opportunity?

THINK ABOUT IT