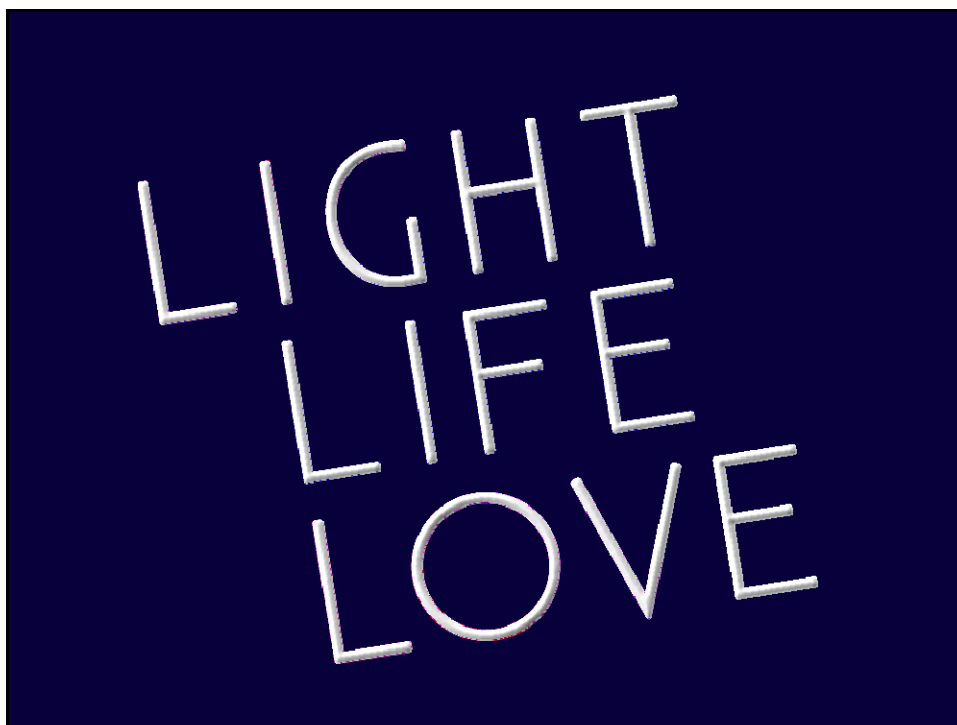


**“We know  
nothing  
of religion here:  
we think only of  
Christ.”**

C.S. Lewis (1946). *The Great Divorce*.

# **EPISTLES OF JOHN**





UNLAWFUL WRITTEN /SPOKEN TESTIMONY, FAILURE TO WORSHIP EMPEROR, JAIL BREAK

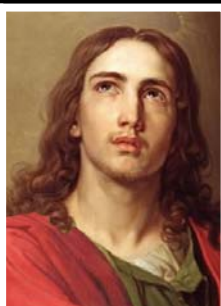
# WANTED BY ROME

## JOHN, SON OF ZEBEDEE

ALIASES: John the Apostle, Ἰωάννης (*Iōannēs*), John the Evangelist, John of Patmos, Son of Thunder, the Beloved Disciple

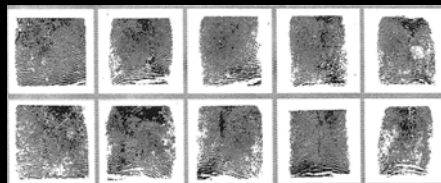


Right Facing



Front

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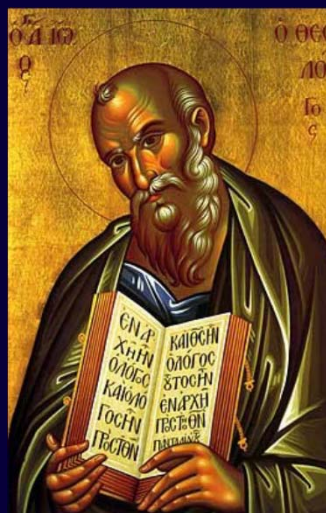


### DESCRIPTION

AGE: 94 est., born c.006 AD Bethsaida, Israel (no birth records)  
reported death c.100 AD, Ephesus, Turkey (grave stone)  
HEIGHT: 5'8" WEIGHT: 140-160 lbs EYES: brown HAIR: brown  
BUILD: medium COMPLEXION: swarthy NATIONALITY: heaven  
OCCUPATION: fisherman, author, apostle, aged carer, theologian  
FATHER: Zebedee MOTHER: Salome BROTHER: James  
KNOWN ASSOCIATES: Jesus Christ; Mary; Mary; the "Twelve";  
Peter, Paul and Mary; Polycarp; Ignatius of Antioch

## Who was John?

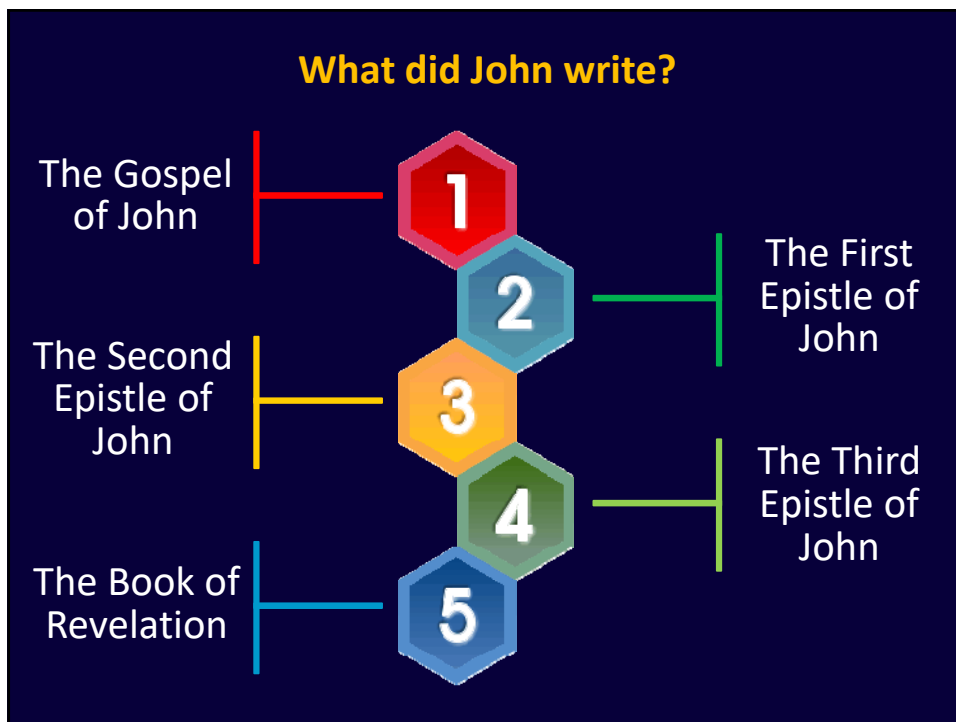
- The “disciple whom Jesus loved”
- The restless fisherman.
- The “son of thunder”
- The courageous follower
- The apostle of love



## The purpose of John's ministry

And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: **But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.**

John 20:30-31

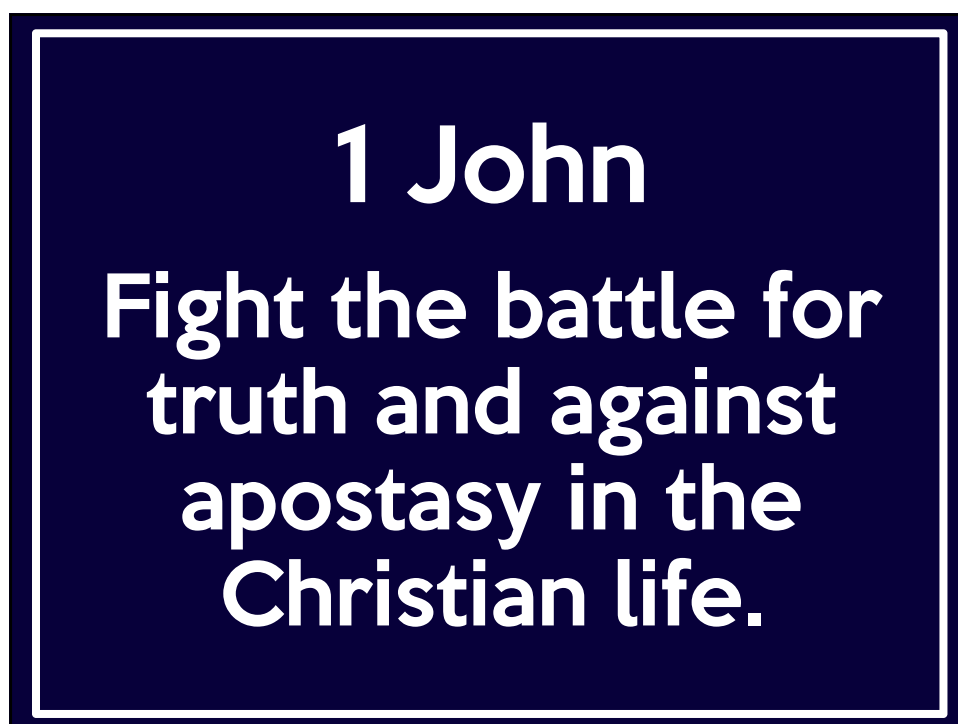


## The three epistles of John

- 01** The tests of reality in the Christian life.
- 02** The battle for truth and against apostasy is fought in the home.
- 03** The battle for truth and against apostasy is fought in the local congregation.

## HOSPITALITY, TRUTH, AND LOVE

♀	<u>TO A LADY</u>	♂
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● DANGER                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● TOO MUCH LOVE</li> </ul> </li> <li>● ATTITUDE                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● TOO SOFT HEARTED</li> </ul> </li> <li>● DOOR OPEN TOO WIDE</li> <li>● BAD OUTCOMES:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● WELCOME WRONG PEOPLE</li> <li>● NEGLECT TRUTH</li> <li>● WRONG BELIEF</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● DANGER                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● TOO MUCH TRUTH</li> </ul> </li> <li>● ATTITUDE                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● TOO HARD-HEARTED</li> </ul> </li> <li>● DOOR SHUT TOO TIGHT</li> <li>● BAD OUTCOMES:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● REFUSE RIGHT PEOPLE</li> <li>● NEGLECT LOVE</li> <li>● WRONG BEHAVIOUR</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>NEED BOTH</b></p> <p><b>Love and truth in women</b>      <b>Truth and love in men</b></p>		





**1 John**  
**Fellowship**

**1 John**  
**Assurance**

## John was a black and white person

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| ● Life               | ● Death             |
| ● Light              | ● Darkness          |
| ● Truth              | ● Lies              |
| ● Love               | ● Hate              |
| ● Righteousness      | ● Lawlessness       |
| ● Children of God    | ● Children of Satan |
| ● Love of The Father | ● Love of The World |

HE WROTE ABOUT OPPOSITES

THERE'S NO MIDDLE GROUND

## Seven Contrasts

- |                |    |                  |
|----------------|----|------------------|
| ● The Light    | vs | ● The Darkness   |
| ● The Father   | vs | ● The World      |
| ● Christ       | vs | ● The Antichrist |
| ● Good Works   | vs | ● Evil Works     |
| ● Holy Spirit  | vs | ● Error          |
| ● Love         | vs | ● Pious Penance  |
| ● The God-born | vs | ● Others         |

Truth Error

## Three Simple Tests

- To **expose** those who are false.

# LIGHT

(Doctrinal test/**believing**/5X)

- To **assure** those who are genuine.

# LIFE

(Moral test/**being**/11X)

# LOVE

(Social test/**doing**/26X)

## Six Lies

1. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth (1 John 1:6).
2. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His truth is not in us (1 John 1:10).
3. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him (1 John 2:4).
4. Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son (1 John 2:22).
5. 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 John 4:20).
6. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself; he that believeth not God hath made God a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son (1 John 5:10).

## Spoiler Alert!

# John was a Jewish fisherman!

- His thinking is circular, not linear like Paul.
- Plus, he's an old dude.
- Talks around a topic: on one hand, on the other hand
- Think Jewish wisdom literature (or Fiddle on the Roof)
- He builds his arguments like a sandwich:



LIFE (1.1-4)  
 LIGHT (1.5 -2.11)  
 LUST  
 LIES (2.15-3.10)  
 LAWLESSNESS  
 LOVE (3.11-4.21)  
 LIFE (5.1-21)



## 1 John (NKJV)

### What Was Heard, Seen, Touched and Studied

**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, concerning the Word of life—

**2** the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

**3** that which we have seen and heard **we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us;** and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

**4** **And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.**

## Tests of true fellowship: God is light

### Fellowship with Him and One Another

<sup>5</sup> This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

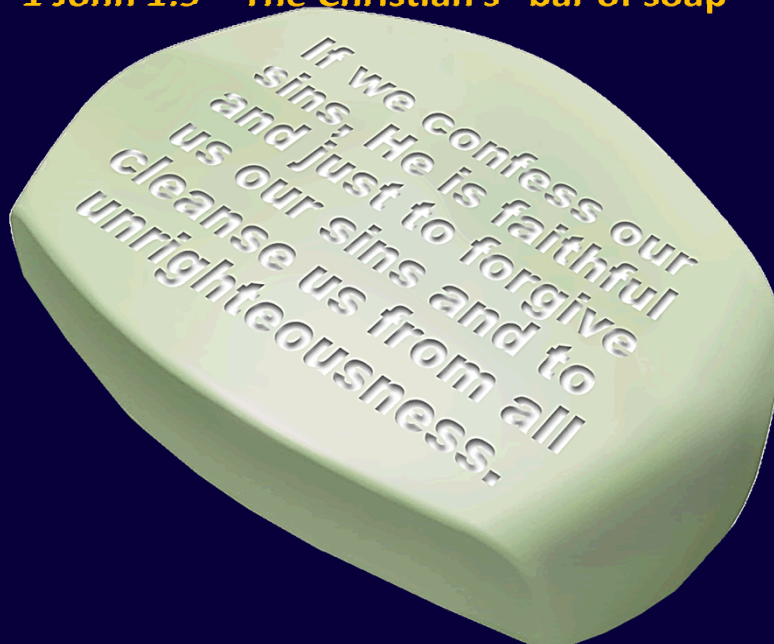
<sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

<sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

<sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

### 1 John 1:9 – The Christian’s “bar of soap”



**WRONG TURN** A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters

www.joyfultoons.com © 2008 Michael D. Waters

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.  
- 1 JOHN 1:9 NIV

**Does this mean that ALL sins can be forgiven?**

**'THE UNPARDONABLE SIN'** BY RAY SARLIN

THEN WAS BROUGHT UNTO HIM ONE POSSESSED WITH A DEVIL, BLIND, AND DUMB.

AND HE HEALED HIM, INASMUCH THAT THE BLIND AND DUMB BOTH SPAKE AND SAW.

AND ALL THE PEOPLE WERE AMAZED, AND SAID, IS NOT THIS THE SON OF DAVID?

JESUS DID MIRACLES BY THE POWER OF GOD, YET PHARISEES ATTRIBUTED IT TO BEEZLEBUB.

GRRR.

PRAISE THE LORD!

THIS FELLOW DOETH NOT CAST OUT DEVILS, BUT BY BEEZLEBUB THE PRINCE OF THE DEVILS.

WHEREFORE I SAY UNTO YOU, ALL MANNER OF SIN AND BLASPHEMY SHALL BE FORGIVEN UNTO MEN: BUT THE BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE HOLY GHOST SHALL NOT BE FORGIVEN UNTO MEN.

AND WHOSOEVER SPEAKETH A WORD AGAINST THE SON OF MAN, IT SHALL BE FORGIVEN HIM.

BUT WHOSOEVER SPEAKETH AGAINST THE HOLY GHOST, IT SHALL NOT BE FORGIVEN HIM, NEITHER IN THIS WORLD, NEITHER IN THE WORLD TO COME.

AND THE DISCIPLES CAME, AND SAID UNTO HIM,

WHY SPEAKEST THOU UNTO THEM IN PARABLES?

THEREFORE SPEAK I TO THEM IN PARABLES: BECAUSE THEY SEEING SEE NOT, AND HEARING THEY HEAR NOT, NEITHER DO THEY UNDERSTAND.

MATTHEW 12:22-24  
MATTHEW 12:31-32  
MATTHEW 13:10, 13

PARABLES SERVE THE DUAL PURPOSE OF REVEALING AND CONCEALING; PRESENTING "THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM" TO THOSE WHO KNOW AND RELISH THEM. BUT TO THOSE WHO ARE INSENSIBLE TO SPIRITUAL THINGS OR SEE THEM AS MERE ALLEGORY, PARABLES ARE BUT TEMPORARY ENTERTAINMENT, IF THAT.

Matthew 12:31-32

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### Why all the misunderstandings today?

- Classic Greek is very complex.
  - | for example, there are both nouns and verbs that take forms in Classic Greek that English has no equivalents for.
- Thus, some Greek words require at least a phrase to convey the meaning.
- Alas, most translations took the easy way out and simply assign the “closest” English word.

### Why all the misunderstandings today?

- Greek doesn't always work the way English does.
  - English: **verb tense** mainly refers to past, present or future.
  - While Greek verbs also refer to time, consideration is not just time of action but rather also the type of action.
    - **Continuous** (or 'Progressive') action.
    - **Completed** (or 'Accomplished) action, with continuing results.
    - **Simple occurrence**, (“Aorist’ or 'Summary occurrence’).
    - And others.

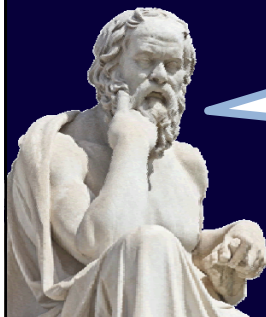
## Parts of Speech - verbs

Tenses	Persons	Moods	Voices
Indicates time of action and type of action.	Same as in English	The degree of contingency.	Relation of subject/verb
Present, ("I am helping", "I help")	First	Indicative, "normal" or "default"	Active
Imperfect, ("I used to help".		Subjunctive, usually translated by "to + infinitive", as in "I want to help".	
Past ("I helped")	Second	Optative, best translated by "I wish + verb", as in "I wish I could help".	Middle
Future ("I will help", "I will be helping."		Imperative, used when ordering, or requesting, as in "Help!"	
Perfect (or present perfect: "I have helped").	Third	Infinitive. Exist only in a few fossilized forms.	Passive
Pluperfect (or past perfect: "I had helped").			
Future perfect ("I will have helped").			

Of course, Greek grammar really isn't so simple.

But we're not here to learn Greek, anyway.

So let's focus on why the grammatical differences can adversely affect our Bible understanding.



IT'S ALL GREEK  
TO ME, MATE!



### Some of the main culprits

#### Perfect Tense<sup>1</sup> (aka present progressive tense)

The perfect tense expresses perfective action. Perfective action involves a present state which has resulted from a past action. The present state is a **continuing state**; the past action is a completed action.

#### Intensive Perfect Tense<sup>2</sup>

Remember that the perfect conveys the idea of a present state resulting from a past action.

This use of the perfect emphasizes the present state of being, **the continuing result**, the finished product, the fact that a thing is ...."

1. J.A. Brooks and C.L. Winbery (1988). *Syntax of New Testament Greek*, University Press.
2. Eugene Van Ness Goetchius (1965). *The Language of the New Testament*, Scribner.

### What do these familiar verses mean?

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever **believeth** in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

...but whosoever **speaketh** against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the *world* to come.

Matthew 12:32  
(The Unpardonable Sin)

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

Christian's Bar of Soap

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.

1 John 3:9

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Matthew 7:8

<sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

<sup>2</sup> My little children (Τεκνίον, "my little bairns"; all born again ones), *these things I write to you, so that you may not sin.* And if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

<sup>2</sup> And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

IT MAY BE THAT DEITY  
CAN FORGIVE SINNERS.  
BUT I DO NOT SEE HOW.

(Socrates, to Plato)



### Comparison

GRACE

Getting

what we do

**not deserve**

MERCY

Not getting

what we do

**deserve**

GOD'S  
RICHES  
AT  
CHRIST'S  
EXPENSE

#### The Test of Knowing Him

<sup>3</sup> Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

<sup>4</sup> He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

<sup>5</sup> But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

<sup>6</sup> He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

<sup>7</sup> Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning.

And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. (Mark 12:29-31)

<sup>8</sup> Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. (John 13:34,35)

### How is this commandment “new”?

Greeks had two different words for “new”:

- 1) νέος *neos*, “new in time” (the latest model);
- 2) καινός *kainos*, “new in quality”; radically different; (English “recent” and “fresh” are rough equivalents).

---

The commandment to “love one another” is not new in time, but it is new in character. In Christ it now takes on a new meaning in 1 John 2:7-11:

- new emphasis (1 John 2:7)
- new example (1 John 2:8)
- new experience (1 John 2:9-11)

<sup>7</sup> Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning.

<sup>8</sup> Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.

<sup>9</sup> He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now.

<sup>10</sup> He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

<sup>11</sup> But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

### Their Spiritual State

<sup>12</sup> I write to you, little children (Τεκνία, “my little born again ones”),  
Because your sins are forgiven you for His name’s sake.

<sup>13</sup> I write to you, fathers,  
Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning.  
I write to you, young men,  
Because you have overcome the wicked one.

I write to you, little children (παίδιον, “infants in the LORD”),  
Because you have known the Father.

<sup>14</sup> I have written to you, fathers,  
Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning.  
I have written to you, young men,  
Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you,  
And you have overcome the wicked one.

### Four types of address

1. Little children (τεκνίον, “my little born again ones”; “bairn ones”). All Christians who have been born into God’s family through faith in Christ.
2. Fathers (πατήρ *pater*). Mature believers with an intimate personal knowledge of God—they know the dangers of the world.
3. Young men (νεανίσκος *neaniskos*) Adolescents; here, conquerors: they have overcome the evil one through the Word of God. Not yet fully mature; but on their way.
4. Little children (παίδιον, “infants in the LORD”) carries the idea of immature ones, still under authority of teachers and tutors.

All are born again, but some have grown  
out of infancy into adulthood.

### Three spiritual ages



#### Fathers

Length of experience  
Depth of experience

#### Young Men

Developed strength  
Digested scripture  
Defeated Satan

#### Little Children

Know forgiveness  
Know fatherhood

## Why male emphasis in NT

# Cultural

# Social

# Practical

- The strength and character of a church can be seen in its men
- Where men are strong in faith, church will be strong
- Where men are strong, the family will be strong

## Do Not Love the World

<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

<sup>16</sup> For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

<sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

### Why Christians should not love “the world”:

1. because of what the world is (a spiritual system opposed to God; see 1 John 5:19);
2. because of what a Christian is (1 John 2:12-14);
3. because of what the world does to us (1 John 2:15-16);
4. because of where the world is going (1 John 2:17).

### Deceptions of the Last Hour

<sup>18</sup> Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

#### Who or what is the “antichrist”?

1. a spirit that is in the world that opposes or denies Christ;
2. the false teachers who embody this spirit;
3. a specific leader—a satanic superman—who will head up the final world rebellion against Christ.

The prefix “anti” can mean a) against; and/or b) instead of.

Characteristics of a false teacher:

1. Departs from the Fellowship (vv. 18, 19);
2. Denies the Faith (vv. 20-25; & 4:1-6);
3. Tries to Deceive the Faithful (vv. 26-29).

### Deceptions of the Last Hour

<sup>18</sup> Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

<sup>19</sup> They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but *they went out* that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

<sup>20</sup> But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.

<sup>21</sup> I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

<sup>22</sup> Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.



<sup>23</sup> Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

### **Let Truth Abide in You**

<sup>24</sup> Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

<sup>25</sup> And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life.

<sup>26</sup> *These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive (seduce) you.*

<sup>27</sup> But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

### **The Children of God**

<sup>28</sup> And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

<sup>29</sup> If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

<sup>3</sup> Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

<sup>2</sup> Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

#### **Sin and the Child of God**

<sup>4</sup> Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

<sup>5</sup> And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

<sup>6</sup> Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

<sup>7</sup> Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

<sup>8</sup> He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

<sup>9</sup> Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

<sup>7</sup> Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

<sup>8</sup> He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

<sup>9</sup> Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

# Really???

## Sin in Believers (1 John 3:9)

<sup>9</sup> Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

Is sin:

INDUBITABLE	we do sin?
INEVITABLE	we will sin?
INCOMPATIBLE	we should not sin?
INTOLERABLE	we must not sin?
INEXCUSABLE	we need not sin?
INAPPLICABLE	we do not sin?
INCONCEIVABLE	we cannot sin?

### Sin in Believers (3.9)

1. 1 John 3:9 Means exactly what it says
2. Sin only means blatant vices and crimes.
3. God doesn't call it sin in believers
4. Refers to our new nature, not old.
5. This is the ideal, not the actual.
6. Only refers to habitual persistent sin.

It applies to those who are:

- Born of God (have his seed/sperm in them)
- Abiding in God

3:9 discusses sinfulness, not security.

<sup>7</sup> Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

<sup>8</sup> He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

<sup>9</sup> Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

#### The Imperative of Love

<sup>10</sup> In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor *is* he who does not love his brother.

<sup>11</sup> For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,

<sup>12</sup> not as Cain *who* was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

<sup>13</sup> Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

<sup>14</sup> We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love *his* brother abides in death.

<sup>15</sup> Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

### **The Outworking of Love**

<sup>16</sup> By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

<sup>17</sup> But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

<sup>18</sup> My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

<sup>19</sup> And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.

<sup>20</sup> For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.

<sup>21</sup> Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.

<sup>22</sup> And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

<sup>23</sup> 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.

### **The Spirit of Truth and the Spirit of Error**

<sup>24</sup> Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

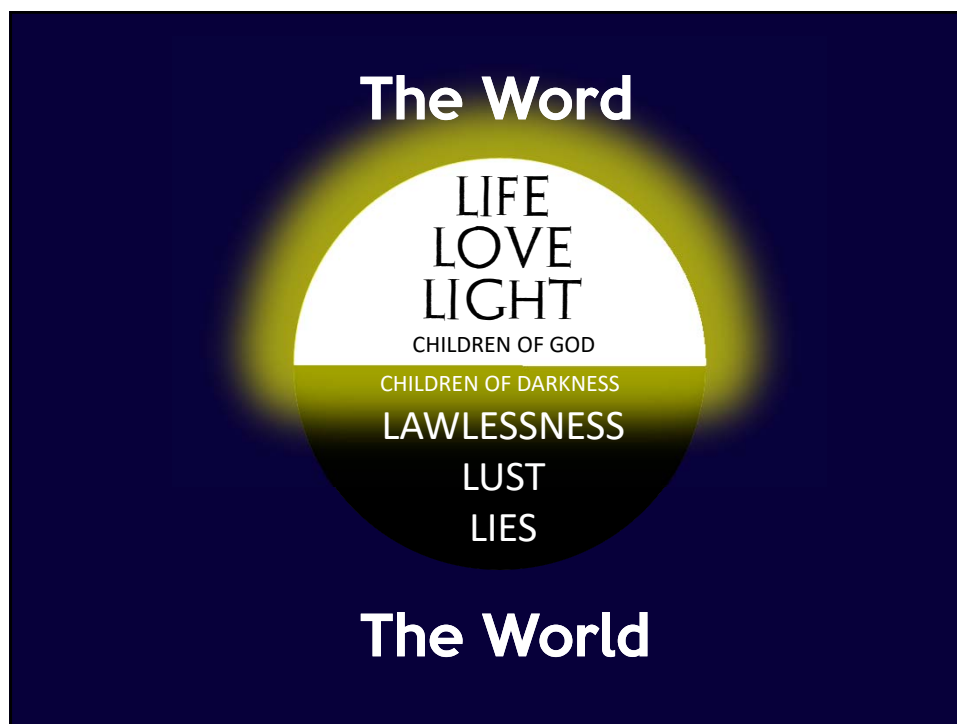
**4** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

<sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,

<sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

<sup>4</sup> You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

<sup>5</sup> They are of the world. Therefore they speak *as* of the world, and the world hears them.



<sup>6</sup> We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

### **Knowing God Through Love**

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

<sup>8</sup> He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

<sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

<sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

<sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

## Love

The Greek has four words for “love”:

- **Storge:** affectionate love, as a parent toward a child;
- **Phileo:** friendly love; having things in common;
- **Agape (n):** God’s unconditional love; [vs. *Agapao*, the verb: totally given over to];
- **Eros:** sensual, sexual love (not used in the New Testament). Even the Greeks clearly understood that it was essential that *eros* be bridled or restrained.

## Seeing God Through Love

<sup>12</sup> No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.

<sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

<sup>16</sup> And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.



### The Consummation of Love

<sup>17</sup> Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

<sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

<sup>19</sup> We love Him because He first loved us.

### Obedience by Faith

<sup>20</sup> If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

<sup>21</sup> And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also.

<sup>5</sup> Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.

<sup>2</sup> By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.

<sup>3</sup> For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

<sup>4</sup> For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

<sup>5</sup> Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

## The Certainty of God's Witness

<sup>6</sup>This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.

<sup>7</sup>For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

<sup>8</sup>And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

## Johannine Comma (Heavenly Witness)

### Majority Text

<sup>7</sup>For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. <sup>8</sup>And there are three that bear record in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three are one.

(1 John 5:7-8)

### Modern Texts

- <sup>7</sup>For there are three that bear witness, <sup>8</sup>the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. (NASB)
- <sup>7</sup>For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup>the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. (NIV)
- <sup>7</sup>For there are three that testify, <sup>8</sup>the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these three are in agreement." (NET Bible)

### The Certainty of God's Witness

<sup>6</sup> This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.

<sup>7</sup> For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

<sup>8</sup> And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

<sup>9</sup> If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son.

<sup>10</sup> He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; **he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.**

<sup>11</sup> And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

<sup>12</sup> He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

<sup>13</sup> **These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.**

### Confidence and Compassion in Prayer

<sup>14</sup> Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

<sup>15</sup> And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

<sup>16</sup> If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin *which does not lead* to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not *leading* to death. There is sin *leading* to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.

<sup>17</sup> All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not *leading* to death.

### **Knowing the True—Rejecting the False**

<sup>18</sup> We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps him, and the wicked one does not touch him.

<sup>19</sup> We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway of* the wicked one.

<sup>20</sup> And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

<sup>21</sup> Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

**Tests of True Sonship**  
**OBEDIENCE**  
**LOVE**  
**TRUTH**

# LIFE LOVE LIGHT

## cannot be separated!

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1. Christian love is affected by light and darkness.
2. Christian love is a matter of life or death. To live in hatred is to live in spiritual death.
3. Christian love is a matter of truth or error.

### Lessons from 1 John

- God is Light
- Embrace Light
- God is Love
- Express Love
- God is Life
- Enjoy Life

### Seven reasons why 1 John was written

<sup>1:3</sup> We declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us.

<sup>1:4</sup> And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

<sup>2:1</sup> These things I write to you, so that you may not sin.

<sup>2:13-17</sup> 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.

<sup>2:21</sup> I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

<sup>2:26</sup> These things I have written to you concerning those who *try to deceive* (seduce) you.

<sup>5:13</sup> These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may believe in the name of the Son of God.

### Five reasons why 1 John was written

1. To promote **HARMONY** (v. 1.3)

2. To produce **HAPPINESS** (v. 1.4)

3. To protect **HOLINESS** (v. 2.1)

4. To prevent **HERESY** (v. 2.26)

5. To provide **HOPE** (v. 5.13)

## Four reasons why 1 John was written

That **you** may be:

- **SATISFIED** (v. 1.4)
- **SINLESS** (v. 2.1)
- **SAFE** (v. 2.26)
- **SURE/CERTAIN** (v. 5.13)

## Do you have the love of the Father in you?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1. Doctrinal Light of Christ</b>     | How do you think of Christ?<br>(not heresy)   |
| <b>2. Spiritual Reception of Spirit</b> | Assurance comes from Spirit not from scripture<br>(not of Satan)  |
| <b>3. Moral Live Righteously</b>        | The proof is in the pudding<br>(not lawlessly)  |
| <b>4. Social Love Brethren</b>          | Love of others proves you have the love of the Father in you.<br>Do you love the Jewish people?<br>(not hatred) |

Assurance



Confidence

Within ourselves  
Before others  
Towards God