

# 1 JOHN

**Author-** John, the son of Zebedee, the apostle and the author of the gospel of John, 2 John, 3 John, and Revelation. He was also the brother of James the apostle and the first cousin of Jesus. He refers to himself in the gospel of John as "the disciple whom Jesus loved", and Jesus refers to him as one of the "sons of thunder." He was an eyewitness of the ministry of Jesus (v-4).

**Purpose and theme-** One of the very prevalent heresies in John's day was called Gnosticism. It taught that everything that was matter was evil, and everything that was spirit was good. Consequently, this meant that the body was evil in contrast to God who was spirit and therefore good. Furthermore, they denied the incarnation of Christ (because he could not possess an evil body), and that salvation was obtained not by faith in the sacrifice of Christ, but by special revelation or secret knowledge. It taught that since matter was evil (not the breaking of God's law), breaking of the law was of no moral consequence. They would treat the body harshly and also throw off all moral restraints.

The terms "Son of God" are used 21 times in this book, and God is spoken of as "the Father" twelve times. The deity of Christ is a teaching proclaimed loudly in the book. In light of this, the Holy Spirit (through John), had a few major themes in writing this letter.

- 1. To expose the false teachings of that day, and the false teachers as well.
- 2. To give the believers a great assurance of their own salvation. Therefore the book is filled with "tests of fellowship or assurance." John presents these "basics" of the Christian faith in certainties, not opinions. He lays them out in very simple terms that are clear and unmistakable, leaving no doubt as to the fundamental nature of those truths.
- 3. To establish basic truths of the faith in simple clear terms.

**I John 1:1-** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched-- this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

**A.** John makes no mistake about the nature of our faith or the Christian message. It was from the beginning. In other words, it descended from God, who is the only One from the beginning (v-2:13). This is the ultimate reality about everything that exists, "In the beginning God", "and God said, Let there be... and there was." John also makes this point very clear in his gospel, first verses;

**John 1:1-4** - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. NAS

**B.** John makes sure we know that this was not hearsay or something that he heard second hand. John claims to be an eyewitness of Christ, having experienced the power of the Kingdom of God first hand.

**C.** "The Word of life" is a term referring to the person of Jesus Christ. It is a statement of His deity as well as a vivid description of Him being the origin of life.

**John 5:26** - "For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; NAS

**I John 1:2-** The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

**A.** Again , "the eternal life", are terms referring to Christ. But here speaking of His pre-existence, that Christ was in heaven with the Father prior to His incarnation. We call this the pre-existence of Christ. The bible points this out over and over again.

**ÊCol 1:15-18** - 15 And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created. both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. NAS

**Heb 1:1-3** - 1:1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. NAS

**Micah 5:2** - 2 "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity." NAS

**B.** The Word of God, is to be proclaimed. It is the existing, all-powerful, Divine and final authority for every matter in heaven and on earth. It is the most authoritative message of any, because of the One from whom it proceeds. It is to be fully proclaimed, in all of its truth and finality. He is who He is, and He does not change and neither does His Word.

**I John 1:3-** We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

**A.** Here John gives us the reason for telling us the gospel, "so that" you also may have fellowship with us and with the Father and His Son. Fellowship with God is the whole reason for our existence, it is therefore also the purpose of our salvation.

**1 Cor 1:8-9** - 9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. NAS

**Rev 21:3** - 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, NAS

**2 Cor 6:16-18** - 16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 17 "Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you. 18 "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty. NAS

**I John 1:4-** We write this to make our joy complete.

**A.** One other reason for his writing, to make our Joy complete. John will communicate many profound truths, many firm warnings and exhortations, and all of these were written for our joy. As we draw near to God and are therefore transformed into the image of Christ, our joy becomes more and more full.

**John 15:11-12** - "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. NAS

**2 Cor 1:24** - Not that we lord it over your faith, but are workers with you for your joy; for in your faith you are standing firm. NAS

**1 John 1:5** - And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. NAS

**A.** message we have heard from Him ö Having declared the authority and Divinity of the messenger, Jesus the Son of God, the Word of Life, he now gives us the message he got first hand from Him. This message, John says, he was an eyewitness of.

**B.** God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all ö God is morally pure. This is His *nature*, God [ **IS** ] light. He is without sin or any type of blemish or

imperfection. He is absolutely the highest and purest form of moral excellency and perfection. We can attribute to God no impurity or even the slightest taint of imperfection, there is in Him, **NO DARKNESS** at all. Light and darkness are frequently used in the bible of analogies of truth and lie, purity and sin. John will use this understanding of God for us to understand then how we should relate to Him.

**Isa 60:19** - 9 "No longer will you have the sun for light by day, Nor for brightness will the moon give you light; But you will have the LORD for an everlasting light, And your God for your glory.

C. He is revelation to the soul, and to all of creation for that matter. In the Kingdom of God there is no sun for God himself is there light, and the brightness of his countenance shines and reflects throughout the glorious City of God, which itself is constructed of precious jewels that all refract and reflect the very Glory of the Great King. What a profound truth this is. God help us to see, and that is exactly what light does. The dictionary gives this definition for light, ä *That which causes the eye to see*". In contrast to this light, the bible makes reference to sin as darkness, as a matter of fact, Jesus refers to those who will be separated from God forever going to a place called "outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

**John 1:9** - There was the true light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man

**John 8:12** - 12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life. "NAS

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

A. Can we say we have fellowship with God, and live in sin? Can we be a mere ãprofessorä of the faith, but not truly born again? **If we practice sin habitually or continually, without repentance or remorse, we lie about our allegiance to God.**

**Ps 5:4** - 4 For Thou art not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil dwells with Thee.

**James 2:14-17** - 4 What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? 17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. NAS

**1 John 2:4-6** - 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked. NAS

True saving faith will produce righteousness and godliness in our lives. We are like Him in the world John says. The children of God bear the image of their Father.

B. John obviously is using this statement of truth for the Christian to have a guide for discernment of truly God-sent leaders. The false teachers he was refuting were obviously practicing habitual sin, which shows therefore the deceit in the teaching. Gal 5:21

**1 Cor 6:9-11** - 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you; **but you were washed**, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God. NAS

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

A. if we walk in the light - If we practice the truth. If we obey Christ and His teachings.

**1 John 2:9-11** - 9 The one who says he is in the light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. 10 The one who loves his brother abides in the light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. 11 But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes. NAS

**John 3:21** - 21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God." NAS

**John 14:23-** 23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him. NAS

B. A genuine Christian walks in the light (practicing truth), not in darkness( sin and disobedience), and having fellowship with Christ he/she is continually cleansed from their sins. Walking in the light, we continually go through the process of confession and forgiveness. We are continually agreeing with God concerning our sin and thus through confession and repentance being cleansed practically, and positionally we have been made holy already.

C. the blood of Jesus His Son ö A reference to the cross of Christ and His vicarious and substitutionary atonement for sin.

D. cleanses us from all sin ö How much sin does the blood of Christ cleanse us from? Is this a conditional promise ie.. if? The answer to these questions is stated. The blood cleanses from all sin to those who abide in Christ.

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

**Heb 10:14** - 14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. NAS

**1 John 1:8-10** - If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. NAS

A. If we say that we have no sin, than why do we need Christ? The whole premise on which someone comes to Christ is for His substitutionary death to cover their sin. If we deny the presence of sin in our lives, we deny the purpose for which God sent His Son.

B. deceiving ourselves ö Since God has testified that we have sinned, when we say that we have no sin we only deceive ourselves. God will not be fooled or mocked, ãbecause a man shall reap what he sows.ä (Gal 6:7)

C. Confession of sin is evidence of the indwelling Holy Spirit, who continually convicts us of sin. The result of a genuine confession is a desire to eradicate sin in our lives, thus pleasing God who we have sinned against. If we truly agree with God concerning our sin, (that it is an abhorrence to Him and a violation of His law and His character, and furthermore deserving of death), than the result of a sincere confession should be repentance, (the turning away from our sin and obeying God). (**1 Kings 8:47, 2 Chron 6:37-38, Matt 3:6**)

**Lev 26:40-42** - 40 If they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their forefathers, in their unfaithfulness which they committed against Me, and also in their acting with hostility against Me-- 41 I also was acting with hostility against them, to bring them into the land of their enemies-- or if their uncircumcised heart becomes humbled so that they then make amends for

their iniquity, 42 then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and I will remember also My covenant with Isaac, and My covenant with Abraham as well, and I will remember the land.

**James 5:16** - 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. NAS

D. God has testified concerning our sinfulness over and over again. If we say we have no sin we make Him to be a liar.

**Job 15:14-16** - "What is man, that he should be pure, Or he who is born of a woman, that he should be righteous? 15 "Behold, He puts no trust in His holy ones, And the heavens are not pure in His sight; 16 How much less one who is detestable and corrupt, Man, who drinks iniquity like water! NAS

**Eccl 7:19-20** - 20 Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sinsNAS

**Isa 64:6** - 6 For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. NAS

**Rom 3:23** - 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, NAS

**Jer 17:9** - 9 "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it? NAS

**1 John 2:1-3** - 1 My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world. NAS

A. writing these things to you that you may not sin ö Can God make it any more clear to us that sin is displeasing to Him. Sin is an utter offense against God and man, it profits nothing, and its ministry is destruction. The author of sin has come to steal and kill and destroy. God is so exceedingly angry towards sin that He was willing to give the life of His Son to appease His justice for it.

**AW Pink** - Never was the hatred of Divine Holiness towards sin so demonstrated as it was when God's wrath was poured out on His own sinless Son, who abore our sins in His body on the tree.ä (1 Peter 2:24)

**Isa 53:10** - 10 But the **LORD was pleased To crush Him**, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, NAS

B. Sin can be overcome by God's power. Through the Holy Spirit, we have power to overcome sin and obey God. Indeed this is command to us and His great desire for us. As a Christian we continue to acknowledge and confess our sin, but this is not a license for it.

**Rom 6:12-15** - 12 Therefore **do not let sin reign in your mortal body** that you should obey its lusts, 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace. 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! NAS

**Titus 2:11-12** - 11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 **instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires** and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, NAS

C. an Advocate with the Father ö Jesus stands in our defense in the presence of the Father. Friend, would God the Father deny God the Son His request for pardon? In Christ we have forgiveness and redemption for our sins. Not only do we stand ãIn Christä before God, but we find God's abundant mercies and grace to face sin and temptation in our life.

**Heb 4:14-16** - 14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, **that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.** NAS

D. but also for those of the whole world ö The scope of Christ's atonement is sufficient to redeem every and all sin, but is effectual only for the Christian. Only by faith is sin atoned for. Only those who believe in Christ and repent of their sins will receive propitiation.

**1 John 2:3-4** - 3 And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; NAS

A. by this we know that we have come to know Him - Here we have another attest of assurance. ä John here says we know that we know Him if we keep His commandments. The fruit of true faith is obedience that comes through that faith.

**1 John 2:4-6** - 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By **this we know** that we are in Him: 6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked. NAS

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

**1 John 3:18-20** - 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. **We shall know by this** that we are of the truth, and shall assure our heart before Him,

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

B. does not keep His commandments, is a liar ö Again a statement providing assurance for the true Christian. Those who obey the commandments of God prove their repentance by their deeds. Those who walk in darkness or practice sin habitually prove that they have not been born of God. ä True saving faith produces good works, every time.

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

**1 John 5:3-6** - 3 For this is the **love of God, that we keep His commandments**; and His commandments are not burdensome. 4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world-- our faith. 5 And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? NAS

**1 John 2:5-6** - 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked. NAS

A. whoever keeps His word ö The one who obeys God's commandments.

B. the love of God has truly been perfected ö To love God is to keep His commandments. Therefore those who obey God, prove their love for God. Christian maturity is a decreasing frequency of sin and an increasing frequency of godly living.

**John 14:15**- 15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. NAS

**John 15:8-11** - 8 "By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. 9 "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. 10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love. NAS

C. By this we know that we are in Him ö The Christian gains assurance of



salvation by the example of obedience he or she sees in their own life. We know we have been reborn of God as we see His life manifested in ours. Salvation is the Life of God in the soul of man.

**1 John 2:7-8** - 7 Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard. 8 On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. NAS

A. an old commandment which you have had from the beginning ö John writes to reaffirm the commandment of God to love. Indeed this the great commandment, to love God and our neighbor.

**Matt 22:37-40** - 37 And He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 'This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 'The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' NAS

B. new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you ö The commandment is not new, but is seen in a new and living way now through the death of Christ and the life of the saints, ãin Him and you.ä The gospel has revealed a powerful ãnewä communion with God, never before seen until the incarnation of Christ. Now through the cross, we live in God and he lives in us. Thus His glory is reflected and manifested through our lives.

**Matt 5:14-16** - 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 "Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. NAS

C. darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining ö Make no mistake about it friends, the darkness is passing away. We await the enemies of God to be put under His feet. The true light of Christ is already shining in and through us.

**John 8:12-13** - 12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life." NAS

**1 John 2:9-11** - 9 The one who says he is in the light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. 10 The one who loves his brother abides in the light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. 11 But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes. NAS

A. Again another test. Here it is love and hate. Love is the true fruit born of the Spirit. Hate is the sin which is in mankind, and in the world. The one who lives in hate continually, abides in darkness or sin. He or she does not have the light of the truth to guide their way and thus cannot see where they are going, or does not have true spiritual discernment concerning life and its issues. He or she lives continually for the sin and the flesh.

**Prov 4:19** - 19 The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know over what they stumble. NAS

**John 12:35** - 35 Jesus therefore said to them, "For a little while longer the light is among you. Walk while you have the light, that darkness may not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. NAS

**1 John 2:12-15** - 12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome

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

- A. Here John identifies three levels of spiritual maturity, Fathers, young men, and children. Fathers John says, know Him who is from the beginning, identifying their comprehension of the supremacy of Christ in all things. Young men he says, the Word of God abides in you and you have overcome the evil one. This clearly speaks of those who have come to find the power of Jesus Christ in life through His word. And children, are those who have a mere knowledge that God is their father.
- B. Ébecause your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake ö Oh that we would embrace this truth, that our sins are forgiven. What needless struggle we bear with doubt and guilt and fear. Our sins are forgiven, we can turn to a sympathetic Savior for help in our lowly state. We are furthermore forgiven for His name's sake. It is because of His merits that we have favor with the Father.

## The Love that God Hates

**1 John 2:15-17-** 15 Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever. NAS

- A. Here the word "world" is *kosmos*. Its meaning here speaks of the surrounding world order. Not the world of people, or the created world, but the realm of sin and evil which is under the control of Satan. Then the things in the "world" are described, lust and pride. These are the natural response of sinful man to the world, it is that which we were saved from and have repented of. We have turned away from these to love God, our devotion and affection is now focused on Him, in contrast to the surrounding world order. Here we are commanded not to love the world or the things in it. And another test of fellowship follows, "If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."
- B. The world is a usurper of our AFFECTION. It, like the fruit in the garden, tempted Eve to turn away from God to indulge the "lust of the eyes", plunging the entire creation into darkness and sin. Friends, we must examine ourselves to see that our affections rest upon God and not the "things in the world." We must have love toward God. Our affections should be in Him and His will and purposes for our life. Our devotion should be to God and Jesus His Son, by His Spirit. What do you love friend? What do you long for? What are you hungry for? What is it friend, that your soul doth thirst for?

**Luke 16:13-** "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

**James 4:4-** You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

**Matt 10:37 - 37** "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who



loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

- C. the love of the Father is not in him -Ê The genuinely born again believer is marked by a love for God and an abhorrence, yes even a hatred of the world. He loves God and despises the world and its cruel system of captivity to sin and lust and pride. If a person loves the world, the love of God is not in Him. The true Christian hates the "world" and he or she is also hated by the "world."

**John 15:18-20** - 18 "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. 19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. NAS

**1 John 2:15-17**- 15 Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever. NAS

D. For all that is in the world ö

- **lust of the flesh** ö The sin nature of man, the rebellious self, dominated by sin and in opposition to God.
- **lust of the eyes** ö The eye is the chief point of attraction and temptation. David's eyes layed hold of beautiful Bathsheba, but what was beautiful to the eye was the sure kiss of death and curses for the soul. (2 Sam 11:1-5,12:9-12)
- **boastful pride of life** ö Men become lifted up in pride, attributing to themselves that which rightfully belongs to God. This was the sin of Satan, God's beautiful and Holy Angel. Nebuchadnezzar learned a great lesson in this. (Dan 4:28-37) What do you have that you did not receive from God? (1 Cor 4:7) Cursed is the man who credits to himself the gifts of God's providence.

- E. The man who does the will of God will live forever. Make no mistake about it, true saving faith produces obedience to the will of God. We are them that have overcome the evil one, demonstrated by our obedience which comes from faith in a God we cannot see.

**Matthew 7:19-23**- Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

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

A. last hour- This is a time period referred to by many writers of the bible. It speaks of the age between the Cross and the second coming of Christ. We should not think that it refers only to the time of Christ's second coming, but it refers to the whole time period from the cross forward.

**Acts 2:17**- "In the **last days**, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

**2 Tim 3:1**- But mark this: There will be terrible times in the **last days**.

**Heb 1:1-2**- In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these **last days** he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

**1 Pet 1:20**-He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these **last times** for your sake.

B. **Antichrist is coming**- It is obvious from this verse that it was common teaching in the New Testament church that "the antichrist" was coming. This "antichrist is the one spoken of in both Old and New Testaments. He is the "lawless one" who will come and oppose Christ and all that He stands for, and will bring great persecution on God's people and cause massive destruction and untold misery. The first point here, "he is coming", that is plain.

**(Daniel 7, 8, 11, 12, Revelation 13:4-10, 19:19-21, John 5:43, 2 Thes 2:3-4)**

**II Th 2:1-4**- Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

C. **many antichrists have arisen** ö This is also very clear. Many antichrists, **plural**, have already come, **past tense**. Who are they? Verse 22 says that anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ (the Anointed One of God), such a man is the antichrist. Chapter 4:3 says that if one denies that Jesus has "come in the flesh" has the spirit of antichrist, that is to deny the deity of Christ or that God has been "incarnate in the flesh." John here refuting many of the Gnostic doctrines, and calling their proponents antichrists. He points to the spirit of antichrist which is in the world and abiding in the "wolves" or false teachers.

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

A. John in pointing out the false teachers, describes how they arise from among us and then depart from us. They are not "faithful" to the Truth, but rather depart from it. In this verse is another test of fellowship. The faithful remain among us and abide in the truth. John says, in their departing, they show that they do not belong to us.

**1 John 2:20-21** - 20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. 21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth. NAS

A. We have an anointing and that anointing is the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of Truth. We know all things, says the KJV, and 1 Corinthians 2 reflects the same Truth. There is no reason for us to be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine and the cunning craftiness of men and their deceitful scheming. We have the Spirit of Truth resident within us and we know all things. We don't know everything there is to know, we just know what we need to know in regard to life and faith and God.

**John 16:13-15**- But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, **he will guide you into all truth**. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. **He will bring glory to me** by taking from what is mine and **making it known to you**. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

**1 Cor 2:9-12**- However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" **but God has revealed it to us by**

**his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.** For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that **we may understand what God has freely given us.**

B. No lie comes from the Truth. There is only one truth and truth is absolute. It is not dependent upon interpretation or opinion. The definition of truth is-"that which is according to fact." Truth is a matter of fact and is not relative but absolute.

**1 John 2:22-23** - 22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. 23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also. NAS

A. A denial of the person or work of Christ is a sure sign of the spirit of antichrist. These denials can be very subtle (transubstantiation, Jesus going to hell). While other denials are quite blatant (Mormonism, Jehovahâs). False teachers often deny the sufficiency of Christâs work, usually in order to enslave you into some human work or merit which must be performed for salvation. To deny the fundamental teachings of Christ and who He is, is to deny Him. To deny that He alone is the Christ is to lie. Jesus is the Christ, the One sent from God to redeem the world.

**2 John 9** - 9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. NAS

**John 14:6** - 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me. NAS

**Acts 4:12** - 12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved." NAS

**1 John 2:24-26** - 24 As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. 25 And this is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life. 26 These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. NAS

A. Christians have heard the gospel from the beginning. To repent, turning to God from sin and live a life of holiness unto Him. To persevere in love and obedience to Christ. To flee from the life of sin, for which the wrath of God is coming. Shall we now embrace some form of teaching which gives us a license to sin and thus deny what we have heard from the beginning. God abhors sin, He hates it. This is demonstrated in the crucifixion of His beloved Son.

C. these things ö John refers to those things he just wrote about. The Christians divine knowledge and discernment, as well as the denial of Christ Jesus, His person and work.

**1 John 2:26-28** - 27 And as for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him. NAS

A. John points out that the Holy Spirit resident in us leads and guides us into all truth. We are to abide in that understanding of truth He has given us. He is not saying that we donât need teachers in the church, which God has given and gifted, but rather we donât need human opinion to understand and know the truth. That is the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

**1 John 2:28-29** - 28 And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. 29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him. NAS

- A. Here he says for a second time, we are to "abide in Him." We are to remain faithful and obedient to Jesus Christ our Savior. Abiding is to remain to His teaching which we have had from the beginning. To practice righteousness and obey His commandments.
- B. you know ö Here yet another test of assurance, to practice righteousness. Practicing righteousness, obedience to Christ is the visible external evidence of salvation or regeneration, being born again. Bear we the fruit of salvation?
- C. Shall we be ashamed of Him at His coming? He will come to Judge, what will He find when we stand before Him?

**2 Tim 4:1** - 4:1 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: NAS

**Rom 14:10** - 10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God. NAS

- D. when He appears/ at His coming ö Twice John mentions the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ. This was a fundamental doctrine in the apostles teaching. We are living in the expectancy of His return to judge the living and the dead, and establish His Kingdom upon the earth. He will save those who love Him and destroy those who hate Him. Here he will discuss the Christians hope in the appearing of Christ. If you hope for His appearing, you love His appearing and love Him, and are therefore motivated to please Him.

**Heb 9:28** - 28 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who **eagerly await Him**. NAS

**2 Thess 1:7-11** - 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed-- for our testimony to you was believed. NAS

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

- A. What virtue is in us that Holy God would call us His children. This is a selfless love that God has granted us. It is Grace, favor which we did not merit. What did we do for God that He should give us eternal life but sin and rebel against Him and break His holy laws of love?
- B. the Father has bestowed upon us - Make no mistake about it, this love originated with God. He is the author, the giver. Salvation is of God, He bestowed it upon us, He first loved us. How great is God's love! Can words even describe the love of God!

**Psalms 36:7-8**- How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights.

**Psalms 89:1-2**- I will sing of the LORD's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

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

**Ephesians 2:4-** But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-- it is by grace you have been saved.

**Ephesians 3:17-19-** hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

- C. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him ö  
The world responds to the Christian as it does to Christ. They do not know or love Him and therefore do not know or love us.

**John 15:18-20** - 18 "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. 19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. NAS

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

- A. we shall be like Him ö We shall be changed and transformed in to the likeness of Christ. He will change our earthly body to be like His heavenly body. This is the first resurrection. (**Rev 20:5, 1 Thess 4:15-18. Matt 24:31**)

**1 Cor 15:48-53** - 48 As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. 50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. NAS

**Phil 3:20-21** - 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. NAS

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

- A. This hope for Christ's return is a purifying hope. It causes us to live pursuing holiness as we await His coming, because we love Him and want to please Him and because we fear and reverence His judgment.

**1 Peter 1:22-** Now that you have **purified yourselves by obeying the truth** so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.

**2 Cor 7:1-** Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us **purify ourselves** from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

**1 Thess 3:12-13** - 12 May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. 13 May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. NIV

**2 Peter 3:10-14** - 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. 11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people **ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness**, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! 13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, NAS



**1 John 3:4-5** - 4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. 5 And you know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. NAS

A. It is clear here that the word "practices" speaks of those who commit sin habitually. We know that this is not the evidence of a true Christian, but in fact someone who has not been born of God. A person's sinful lifestyle is the visible external evidence that they have not been born again or saved.

B. The whole reason that Christ appeared was to take away sins. Shall we now go on committing the very thing which resulted in Christ's death? We are to turn away from sin, repent. This is a fundamental element of biblical faith. The entire goal of Christian life is to be like Christ, in who there is "no sin."

**1 John 3:6-8** - 6 No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; 8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil. NAS

A. The point here is so clear, it cannot be mistaken. It is another test of fellowship or assurance. If one continues to live in a lifestyle of sin, he has not been born of God. This is how we know (discern) who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are v-10, those who walk in darkness, do not belong to Christ. No matter what the profession of the lips, by their fruit you will know them. If we live like the devil, is it not obvious who we belong to, or who our master is?

**Matt 7:15-23**- "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. **A good tree cannot bear bad fruit**, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only **he who does the will of my Father** who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

B. just as He is righteous ÷ Genuine believers are marked by a lifestyle of righteousness in contrast to the one who is "of the devil."

**1 John 3:9-10** - 9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. NAS

A. This is not to say that a Christian never sins, but rather that he/she is not habitually practicing sin. Indeed he/she cannot. The indwelling Spirit of God will not permit it. He/she will be utterly convicted of such practices, resulting in repentance or discipline from God. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convict the believer of sin, reforming and renewing them in truth and obedience to it.

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

B. By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious - When all is said and done, there are two kinds of people in the world. The sons of



God and the sons of the devil. Mankind shows the reality of his/her eternal state by their deeds. If we live like the devil, it is because we are of the devil. If we have been born of God, we will act like God's children.

**1 John 3:11-12** - 11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; 12 not as Cain, who was of the evil one, and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous. NAS

A. Love is the basis for everything we do. We live a life of love (Eph 5:1) out of the love that the Father has lavished on us. Our lives should be a manifestation of the love that God has put in our hearts. This cannot happen if we live our life only for ourselves. We must live to give to others and to love, and in that, life has great purpose and meaning.

**2 Cor 5:14-15**- For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live **should no longer live for themselves** but for him who died for them and was raised again.

B. not as Cain. Cain shows by the fruit of his life who his lord is. His actions prove that he is not repentant. Friends, if we find ourselves despising our brother, we have a problem. We must examine the root of such bitterness in our hearts and uproot it. This will not happen until we deal with it. A wound uncared for only festers and becomes infected, so it is with the heart. Think of it, as Cain watched his brother each day, offering his sacrifice unto God, each day the jealousy and hatred grew and welled up to death, and the first murder was committed. We must live in forgiveness and love. Should not we desire the best of God's blessing for our brother? Should we not rejoice when our brothers are blessed?

**Matt 5:21-24**- "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

**1 John 3:13-15** - 13 Do not marvel, brethren, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. 15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. NAS

A. Yet another test. He who loves is born of God. (regenerate, saved, born again) He who hates is of the world. (unregenerate, lost) Salvation is also described as passing from death unto life.

B. Do not marvel, brethren, if the world hates you - Don't be surprised, consider it normal if the world hates you. Christians should keep the perspective that this is not their home, we are strangers here. The world does not treat us as its own, nor does it see things the way we do. There is no regard for God in their eyes, and righteousness is not in their vocabulary. [Anti-Christian Worldview]

**1 Peter 2:11-12** - 11 Dear friends, I urge you, as **aliens and strangers in the world**, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. NIV

**Rom 3:10-18** - "There is none righteous, not even one; 11 There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; 12 All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one. " 13 "Their throat is an open grave, With their tongues they keep deceiving," "The poison of asps is under their lips"; 14 "Whose mouth is full of

cursing and bitterness"; 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood, 16 Destruction and misery are in their paths, 17 And the path of peace have they not known. " 18 "**There is no fear of God before their eyes.**" NAS

**Rom 8:7-8** - 7 the **sinful mind is hostile to God**. It does not submit to God's law, **nor can it do so**. 8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. NIV

**1 Cor 2:12-14** - 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. 14 But **a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God**; for they are foolishness to him, and **he cannot understand them**, because they are spiritually appraised.

**1 John 3:16-18**- This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

- A. Love, in its highest form is an act of selfless sacrifice. Here the apostle compares the love that God has for us, which He demonstrated by giving His life for us, with our giving up material possessions for our brothers. If we are sons and daughters of God, we are to love. If we are to love, then we are to sacrifice so that others may have their needs met. Do we not worship Him for His love, and if that is what we so highly esteem, than shouldn't we also love as He loved. This is what Christianity is all about. In love we will find fulfillment, and our hearts will be filled with His joy.
- B. with actions and in truth - If we say "we belong to Him", then **we must** walk as He did. There must be action to accompany our faith, or it is not true saving faith.

**James 2:14-17**- What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

**1 John 3:19-21** - 19 We shall know by this that we are of the truth, and shall assure our heart before Him, 20 in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; NAS

- A. Here John gives us an exhortation to live with a clear conscience, guided by God the Holy Spirit. To live in such a manner here and now which pleases God, and which our conscience approves of. To violate our conscience and the Spirit's guidance, is to lack assurance of God's approval and blessing. To obey our conscience is to gain assurance of God's acceptance of our deeds, and thus have confidence before God. Test- Hereby we know we are of the truth.
- B. God is greater than our heart, and knows all things - He knows all the sins of which we are conscious, and sees all their guilt and aggravation as clearly as we do. All things are obvious and fully seen by God, including our inner thoughts and motives.

**Heb 4:13** - 3 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight **Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him** to whom we must give account.

**1 John 3:22-24** - 22 and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight. 23 And this is His

commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. 24 And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And we know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. NAS

- A. whatever we ask we receive from Him ö Not because we merit his favor, but because Christ has merited His favor for us, whereby we are now called ãchildren of God.ä God is therefore disposed to us as ãour Father.ä He will therefore grant the desire of His beloved children, should they ask consistent with that that which He would grant to us, that is, what is best for us.

**John 14:13** - "And whatever you **ask in My name**, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (NKJV) [according to his will]

**Mark 11:24** - "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, **believe that you receive them**, and you will have them. (NKJV) [in faith]

- B. the Spirit whom He has given us ö We know that God abides in us if we by His Spirit think and desires that which God thinks and desires. Do you abhor sin? Do you love righteousness? Do you love mercy and hunger for truth? Do you love justice and peace? These come from the Spirit, by these we know that He abides in us.
- C. Because we keep his commandments. - Not that this is the meritorious ground of our being heard, but that it furnishes evidence that we are his children, and he hears his children as such. *Barnes*
- D. And do those things that are pleasing in his sight. - As a parent is disposed to bestow favours on obedient, affectionate, and dutiful children, so God is on those who please him by their obedience and submission to his will. We can have no hope that he will hear us unless we do so live as to please him. *Barnes*
- 1 John 4:1** - 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. NAS

- A. Chapter 4 discusses **two main topics**.

1. How we know that we have the Spirit of God- v 4:1-6

2. The requirement, power and results of God's love- v4:7-21

- B. do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God ö The requirement for God's people has always been the discerning of truth and error. God's enemy is a liar, and works his purposes through lies and deception. Thus we must, ãtest the spirits.ä **Acts 17:11** - 11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, **examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so**. NAS

**1 Thess 5:16-22** - 16 Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not quench the Spirit; 20 do not despise prophetic utterances. 21 **But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good;** 22 abstain from every form of evil. NAS

**Rev 2:2** - 2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that **you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false**. NIV

- C. Many false prophets have gone out- Friends, we need to exercise discernment like never before. Lawlessness abounds more and more as the Day of the Lord approaches, and we must be on our guard against false teachers and prophets. They will come as a sheep among us, and

we must discern their error and forsake it for the truth. We must test the spirits.

**Matt 7:15-23**- "Watch out for false prophets. They **come to you in sheep's clothing**, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

**2 Pet 2:1**- But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be **false teachers among you**. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them-- bringing swift destruction on themselves.

**1 Tim 4:1-2**- The Spirit clearly says that in later times some **will abandon the faith** and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. **Such teachings** come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

**Acts 20:28-31**- Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will **come in among you** and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

**1 John 4:2-3** - 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. NAS

A. Jesus Christ has come in the flesh- The incarnation. The deity of Christ, He is God in the flesh. This is the central doctrine denied by almost every cult and/or cultic system. Every theological heresy begins with a misconception of the nature of God. One God, three persons, eternal, infinite and transcending His creation in every dimension.

**John 1:1-3,14** - 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the **Word was God**. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. 14 **And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us**, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. NAS

**Col 1:15-18**,- 15 And **He is the image of the invisible God**, the first-born of all creation. 16 **For by Him all things were created**, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- **all things have been created by Him and for Him**. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. NAS

**Col 2:9** - 9 For in Him **all the fullness of Deity dwells** in bodily form, NAS

B. this is the spirit of the antichrist ò The spirit of antichrist is constantly attacking the **PERSON and WORK of CHRIST**. This is the central theme of Christianity and the source of our redemption and relationship with God. Jesus Christ is the object of our worship, **God the Son**, eternal, infinite and transcendent. If antichrist cannot attack the perfect person of Christ, he will attack His perfect work. Denials of *the sufficiency of the atonement* include;(transubstantiation, Jesus going to hell, saved by grace plus works, purgatory)

**Heb 10:14** - 14 because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. NIV

**Heb 10:19-22** - 19 Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil,

that is, His flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. NAS

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

A. You are from God, little children ö We are born of God, taught of God, anointed of God, blessed of God, chosen in God, and shepherded by God. We have our security in Him. He is our origin. We were "dead in trespasses," until we were "made alive in Christ." We have our being in God and our lives are lived "unto Him." He is everything to us, and the sum total of our existence. We were chosen in Christ "before the foundation of the world."

**Eph 1:4-5** - 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, NAS

B. Here John assures us again, telling us of the exceeding great victory we have over the devil. The spirit of antichrist cannot deceive us, for we have the Holy Spirit to "lead us into all truth." We have therefore overcome them, that is the antichrists who would lead us astray from the truth.

**Rom 8:35-39** - 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Just as it is written, "For Thy sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 **But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer** through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**John 16:13-15**- But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, **he will guide you into all truth.** He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. **He will bring glory to me** by taking from what is mine and **making it known to you.** All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

**1 Cor 2:9-12**- However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" **but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.** For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that **we may understand what God has freely given us.**

**1 John 4:5-6** - 5 They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

A. They are from the world,... We are from God ö They (the false teacher, that is) have their life in the world and live for it. The sum total of their existence is in the world, which is temporal. The false teacher has his eyes on worldly things, because they are of the world. Their heart, their mind, and their passion is on the world and ours is on God and His kingdom. Their minds are on earthly things our minds are on heavenly things. The kingdom of God is not of this world and neither are we.

B. they speak as from the world ö Because they are from the world, they therefore live for and teach only what has temporal existence. The world therefore listens to their message. It is a worldly message, appealing to the lust of the eyes, flesh, and the pride of life.

**Phil 3:17-19** - 17 Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. 18 For, as I have often told you before and now say



again even with tears, many live as **enemies of the cross of Christ**. 19 Their destiny is destruction, **their god is their stomach**, and their glory is in their shame. Their **mind is on earthly things**. NIV

**Rom 8:5** - 5 For those who are according to the flesh **set their minds on the things of the flesh**, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. NAS

**2 Peter 2:3** - 3 In their **greed these teachers will exploit you** with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

**2 Peter 2:10-11** - 10 This is especially true of those who **follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature** and **despise authority**. Bold and arrogant, these men are **not afraid to slander celestial beings**; 11 yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord. NIV

**2 Peter 2:18-19** - 18 For their mouth empty, boastful words and, **by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature**, they **entice people** who are just escaping from those who live in error. 19 They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity-for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.

**1 John 4:5-6** - 5 They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. NAS

C. he who knows God listens to us ö Because we have the same Spirit, we therefore have unity in the truth. We have unity in the truth and the essentials about God and Christ and reality. The truth is what comprises our unity. If it weren't for the truth, we would have unity with the world, but we are not of the world but from God, who is Truth. He is Light, we have sinned, He sent His Son, in Him we have redemption, resurrection and eternal life. Apostates and antichrists turn away from the truth for a lie.

**2 Thess 2:10-13** - 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who **perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved**. 11 And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might **believe what is false**, 12 in order that they all may be **judged who did not believe the truth**, but took pleasure in wickedness. 13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation **through** sanctification by the Spirit and **faith in the truth**. NAS

**1 John 2:21-22** - 21 I have not written to you because you do not **know the truth, but because you do know it**, and because **no lie is of the truth**. 22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. NAS

**1 John 4:7-8** - 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. NAS

A. Beloved, let us love one another ö Chief among all the Law and prophets, and all commandments is the commandment to love. This is because it is the very nature of God. We are like Him in the world (v-17).ä We are therefore to bear His image. His character is to be our character, that is, if we are His children.

B. love is from God, for God is love ö The virtue of love comes from God, as does all other virtue. Virtue proceeds from the person of God whose character is infinitely perfect. This is His *nature*, God [ **IS** ] love. Therefore, His nature defines the true meaning of love for äGod is Love.ä Love is what God is!

**James 1:17**- 17 Every good thing bestowed and **every perfect gift is from above**, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow. NAS

C. Whoever loves, whoever does not love-The test of knowing God. Hereby we discern the antichrist who would lead us astray. A godly man is a man fired by

love!

D. everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ö The visible external evidence of salvation is love. Those born of the Father bear His nature. Reader, are you a Christian? Hereby know that you are, if you love God and man! Do you have a driving love for other Christians, do you seek to please God above all else? Are your affections upon the Savior and His Kingdom? Lovest thou me, saith the Lord?

**1 John 4:9-10** - 9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. NAS

A. the love of God was manifested in us ö God showed us His love practically. He demonstrated it to us. He was not just off in Heaven declaring His love, but came and lived among us and displayed His love to us. He proved His love was real, by a mighty demonstration. Selfless charity, affectionate devotion, sacrificial Love given in spite of our rejection of Him.

**Rom 5:8-10** - 8 But **God demonstrates His own love toward us**, in that while we were **yet sinners**, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, **we shall be saved** from the wrath of God through Him. 10 For if **while we were enemies**, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we **shall be saved by His life**. NAS

B. sent His only begotten Son into the world ö Jesus came from God. He was with the Father in the beginning (John 1:1), and was sent to us. He left the Glory and Splendor of Heaven to come here and display the love of God to sinners. God, very God, became flesh and lived among us.

**1 Tim 3:16** - 16 And by common confession **great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh**, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Beheld by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory. NAS

C. we might live through Him ö Through His death, we now live. He paid a ransom for our lives, which were held by the captor of sin and death! What worth our soul has! That Christ, the Son of God would die for us! How great is the love that God has for us, that the Savior would die, with such great suffering and sorrows! How marvelous is God's benevolence to us, that we shall be raised immortal and eternally blessed, full of Joy and satisfaction, forever and ever, world without end!

**John 11:25-26** - 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me **shall live** even if he dies, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in Me **shall never die**. Do you believe this? " NAS

D. propitiation for our sins - the atoning death of Jesus on the cross, through which He paid the penalty demanded by God because of man's sin, thus setting mankind free from sin and death. The word comes from an old English word, propitiate, which means "to appease." Thus, propitiation expresses the idea that Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for sin which a holy God demanded of man the sinner.(from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright (c)1986)

E. Jesus has paid the price and we are free! Christ's atoning work on the cross is **full payment** for our sins and God no longer holds it against the believing sinner. Jesus's work is perfect, we are forgiven! Let not guilt weigh you down,

the Savior owns your guilt! He bought and paid for it, rest in His love dear Christian!

**Rom 8:31-32** - 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, **but delivered Him up for us all**, how will He not also with Him **freely give us all things**? NAS

**1 John 4:11-13** - 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. NAS

A. if God so loved us ö If God loved us in this manner, giving Himself as a sacrifice for us, what then would we withhold from Him? We owe Him our very lives! Would we be willing to make a sacrifice in our own lives to love one another? In what practical ways could we make a sacrifice to love one another?

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

**2 Cor 5:14-15** - 14 For **Christ's love compels us**, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that those who live should **no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them** and was raised again. NIV

B. if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us ö

This is a conditional promise. If we love one another, God will abide in us.

And the fruit which is produced from God living in us is *perfect love*.

Although this love is fruit produced by God the Holy Spirit in us, it is conditional born by our obedience to the commandment to love one another.

Therefore, we should make every effort to love, so that God will be pleased to abide in us.

**1 John 2:3-6** -3 And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: NAS

**1 John 4:14-15** - 14 And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. NAS

A. John beheld this with his eyes. Every true Christian has this witness in his/her heart. That God sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. This is the bedrock truth on which all Christian fellowship and unity rests. Without this truth, there is no life, or salvation.

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

**1 John 4:16-17** - 16 And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this, love is perfected with us, that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. NAS

A. we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us ö We have come to know personally the love that God has for us. We have personal fellowship with God and his Son. Ours is a living and real relationship to God through His Son. We furthermore, rely on this love. What greater comfort have we, than that God is Love and His love is ãfor us.ä We are loved by a precious Father, the God of all creation, what shall we fear. This is ground for true joy, and comfort and hope for even our darkest hour.

B. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ö Since God is Love, we know that if He truly lives in us, His love will be seen in us. The visible external evidence that God is in us is "Love." We are to possess Christ's love, toward God and toward men. The Christian's life is marked by love, it is the fruit of the Spirit which is in us.

C. By this, love is perfected with us ö By what? By our knowing and believing in God's love for us. As we come to know and trust His love, we are motivated to obey Him, and His love is made perfect in us. We are being transformed from our old, selfish and self-centered life, into a selfless and God-centered relationship to everyone. We are concerned with other's highest good, esteeming others more highly than ourselves.

**Phil 2:2-4** - 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in **humility consider others better than yourselves.** 4 Each of you should look **not only** to your own interests, but also **to the interests of others.** NIV

D. confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. ö As we see ourselves becoming like Christ, we are assured with "confidence" that God is truly in us. If His Spirit is in us, He is changing us to be "like Him in the world." This produces tremendous confidence in our hearts because we know it is not from ourselves, but is God at work in us.

**2 Cor 4:7** - 7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this **all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.** NIV

**Phil 2:13** - 13 for it is **God who works in you** to will and to act **according to his good purpose.** NIV

**1 John 4:18-21** - 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. 19 We love, because He first loved us. 20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also. NAS

A. As we come to know and understand God's love to us, and allow Him to perfect this love in us, we become confident of our relationship to Him. For the one who obeys God, what shall he fear? If God is for us, who is against us? As we draw near to God our love relationship deepens, and we are no longer the trembling sinner, but the beloved child.

B. hates his brother, he is a liar ö The test of love. If we hate our brother, we show that God's love is truly not in our hearts, and we furthermore violate His commandment to love one another. This truth is self evident.

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

**1 John 5:1-2** - 1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. NAS

A. believes that Jesus is the Christ ö Believes that Jesus is the Messiah (the promised One of God). The long awaited Savior of the world. The One who will redeem the creation from "bondage to decay" and release the world from its captivity to sin. He is more than just a good man, or great teacher. He is the One who is highly exalted above all power, authority and rule.

**Eph 1:20-22** - 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 **far above all rule and authority** and

**power and dominion**, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. NAS

**1 John 2:22** - 22 Who is **the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ?** This is the **antichrist**, the one who denies the Father and the Son. NAS

- B. loves the Father loves the child born of Him - By loving God and carrying out His commands, we show that we love God's family. This has a purifying effect on the whole Body of Christ. The commandments are summed up in one, Love the Lord your God and love your neighbor as yourself. Therefore we see to fulfill the commandments is to love.

**Matt 22:37-40**- Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

**Matt 7:12**- So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

**Rom 13:9-10**- The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

- C. By this we know that we love the children of God - It is by observing the commandments that we show that we love God's family. This is love for God, that we would love His family and obey His commandments.

**1 John 5:3-5** - 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. 4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world-- our faith. 5 And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? NAS

A. If one loves God, does he not recognize that God is the Sovereign, Almighty King of the universe and Creator of the same. And in the recognition of that fact, does he not also realize his utter dependence upon God for life and breath. And in the realization of these things, how could we not then find our only beneficial choice to obey Him, for His commandments are final and absolute, and are to be fully obeyed.

**Ps 119:4**-You have laid down precepts that **are to be fully obeyed**.

B. this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments ö We cannot say we love God and walk in darkness, or live in sin continually. To love God is to obey Him as our God and King, indeed He is the Lord.

**John 14:15** - 15 "If you **love Me, you will keep My commandments**. NAS

**John 14:23** - 23 Jesus answered and said to him, "**If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word;** and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him. NAS

C. His commandments are not burdensome ö If your burden ain't light, it ain't right. It is the delight of those who love God to keep His commandments. His commandments are the great love of our life, given for our good and blessing, and for His Glory and Honor.

**Ps 119:47-48** - 7 And **I shall delight in Thy commandments, Which I love**.

48 And I shall lift up my hands to **Thy commandments, Which I love**; And I will meditate on Thy statutes. NAS

**1 John 5:6-8** - 6 This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. 7 And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is the truth. 8 For there are three that bear witness, the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. NAS



A. One of the common Gnostic teachings of John's day was the denial of the incarnation. This is why John has continually repeated the "Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh", thus supporting the incarnation. Here John tells us that Christ came by water(Baptism), and by blood(sacrificial death), and that the Spirit testifies to the importance of these facts. Here he is refuting the teaching that the divine Christ entered the man Jesus at His baptism and then left him sometime before the crucifixion. But indeed the Spirit testifies in us that Jesus the man was fully God from birth and that His coming was divine from beginning to end, providing for us a perfect work of substitutionary atonement. Christ was fully God at His baptism and fully God at His death.

B. The Spirit testifies...Spirit is the truth - The Spirit testifies to us of the truth for He is the truth. The truth that lives in us is the Spirit, who is God. God is truth. Jesus said "I am the truth", and He lives in us by His Spirit. Therefore we have a witness of the truth, it is the Spirit within us. Do you hear and agree and trust in these things, you have done so because of the internal witness of the Holy Spirit. He will always guide us into truth, are we listening?

**John 14:16-17**-And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- **the Spirit of truth**. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

**John 15:26**- "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, **the Spirit of truth** who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.

**John 16:13**- But when he, the **Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth**. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

**1 John 5:9-10** - If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for the witness of God is this, that He has borne witness concerning His Son. 10 The one who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the witness that God has borne concerning His Son. NAS

A. What John is communicating is this, God has given testimony about His Son, so who will contradict him. So whatever the false teachers might claim, God's testimony is greater than all. If you don't trust Him, you will die in your sins.

**God has testified concerning His Son-**

**Matt 3:16-17** - 16 And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him, 17 and behold, **a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."** NAS

**Matt 17:4-5** - 5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and behold, a **voice out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"** NAS

**2 Peter 1:17-19** - 17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to **Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"-- 18 and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven** when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 And so we have the prophetic word made more sure,

B. Every true Christian has this witness in his/her heart. That Jesus Christ was God incarnate, from birth to death, perfectly and completely fulfilling the plan of God, the redemption of the creation.

**Ps 25:14** - 14 The secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him, And **He will make them know His covenant.** NAS

**Rom 8:16-17** - 16 The **Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit** that we are children of God,



**1 John 5:11-12** - And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. NAS

A. A. Jesus said, "I am the way, the Truth and the life". He alone is the only exclusive avenue of righteousness with God. Without Christ we abide in death. Jesus alone possess life and He alone is the One who grants it.

**John 5:26**-For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the **Son to have life in himself.**

**Acts 4:12**- **Salvation is found in no one else**, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

**John 3:36**- **Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life**, for God's wrath remains on him."

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

A. To believe in the name of the Son of God is to believe in all that He represents. His name is a representation of all that He is. We cannot say we believe one part of His teaching, but not another. He is the Word, and His Word is all that He has said. Therefore to believe in His name is to believe in all that He has said. **We manifest this belief or trust by our obedience to His Word.**

**John 14:21** - 21 "He **who has My commandments and keeps them**, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and **I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him.**"

B. That you may know - If we can endure the tests that have been laid out before us in this book, and in our heart have the testimony of what has been said, we can know, beyond the shadow of a doubt that we have eternal life. If we can say with assurance that we believe these things in the deepest part of our heart, we can be assured that we have eternal life. How assuring it is to say the "Amen" in our heart to the Word of God.

**Rom 8:14-17** - 14 For all who are being **led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.** 15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but **you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"** 16 The **Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,** 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him. NAS

**1 John 5:14-15** - 14 And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

A. We can have confidence that God will answer our prayers when we pray "according to His will." According to His will is to pray according to what He would want, not according to our wants and desires, unless they are consistent with His. Jesus also taught us to pray according to God's will (Matt 6:10,26:42). How can we expect God to do something inconsistent with His nature or purpose. Therefore if we know His will(Eph 5:17), we can then always pray with confidence that our prayers will be answered. God answers prayer.

**Eph 5:17** - 17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

## 1 JOHN

**1 John 5:16-17** - 16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make request for this. 17 All

unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death. NAS

A. Praying for the sinning brother- We should always continue to pray for our brothers and sisters, especially when we see them in sin. This should be our first response. And Oh how it is God's will that a brother should turn from their sin. Therefore if we pray concerning His will, namely that a brother would be released from sin's grip, then we know God will give him life(strengthen Him against his/her sin), bringing them back to obedience. This is a prayer we can pray with confidence.

B.Those whose sin does not lead to death- The faithful in Christ, the brethren, all the saints, the children of God. These all stand in the perfect righteousness of Christ, and will not come into condemnation, they have passed from death unto life.

In contrast to the false teachers or apostate believers who deny that Jesus is the Christ and has come in the flesh, those who do not love their brothers or obey the commandments of God. These are the tests of first John which have rightly identified the apostates.

C. The sin that leads to death- Here the "sin that leads to death " is the willful rejection of Jesus Christ. Also the death spoken of refers to spiritual death. It is also referred to as the "unforgivable sin" and the "blasphemy of the Holy Spirit." This is a sin that cannot be covered by God's provision because man has willfully rejected that provision(which comes by faith to all who believe), therefore forfeiting the only way of salvation, ending in spiritual death, or the second death. This is the state of the apostate(those who have turned from the true faith and embraced sin), which this book does such a clear job of exposing. I believe this position is supported best in the context of the book of 1 John. John has spoken in great detail of the true and false relationship with God and here makes it clear again that their sin will lead to death.

D. I am not saying that he should pray about that- If we pray for the impenitent, it must be with humble reference of the matter to God's will, not with the intercessory request which we should offer for a brother when erring. Even Jesus Himself intercedes, not for the world which hardens itself in unbelief, but for those given to Him out of the world. Those who belong to God hear what God says.(John 8:42-47)

E. All wrongdoing is sin- **SIN - Lawlessness <1 John 3:4> or transgression of God's will, either by omitting to do what God's law requires or by doing what it forbids. The transgression can occur in thought <1 John 3:15>, word <Matt. 5:22>, or deed <Rom. 1:32>.(from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)(Copyright (C) 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)**

**Rom 14:23**-But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; **and everything that does not come from faith is sin.**

**Titus 1:15-16**- To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and **do not believe, nothing is pure.** In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

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

A. no one who is born of God sins - This is the willful continuing in a pattern of or lifestyle of sin. We are being saved from and continually cleansed from sin. We are in a process where the frequency of sin in our lives is on the decrease.

The child of God cannot go on sinning.

**1 John 3:9-10** - 9 **No one who is born of God practices sin**, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

B. The one who is born of God keeps Him safe- This verse clearly referring to Jesus Christ. He is the One who keeps us safe from sin. We are shielded by faith in Him, because in Him we have been justified and our sin has been judged and punished at the cross. Christ will keep us from falling. If we were saved by grace through faith, will not that same grace by faith keep us till the end? Yes it will.

**Jude 1:24**- To him **who is able to keep you from falling** and to present you before his glorious presence **without fault** and with great joy--

**Rom 14:4**- Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, **for the Lord is able to make him stand**.

**2 Tim 4:18**- The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will **bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom**. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**1 Pet 1:3-5**- Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade-- kept in heaven for you, who through faith are **shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation** that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

C. The evil one cannot harm Him - What does the bible say here. The evil one cannot harm you. Do you believe it? If you will stand in Christ, though ten thousand fall by your side, you will not be harmed.

**1 Cor 10:13**- No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

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

A. John has made a very clear distinction between those who belong to Christ and those who do not. Here he tells us that the entire world and its system are under the control of the evil one. We as Christians are in a process of become separated from the world and its system, how can we continue to embrace it any longer. We must put of the old self which is being corrupted by it evil desires and put on the new self. We must also understand the plight of the world and all who are in it. They are under the control of the evil one, held as captives and slaves to sin.

**Eph 2:1-3**- As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when **you followed** the ways of this world and of **the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient**. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

**1 John 5:20-21** - **20** And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding, in order that we might 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. **21** Little children, guard yourselves from idols. NAS

A. He has given us understanding - Christ has given us the understanding of everything we need to know in regard to our life. Christ has revealed the father, who is true, to us so that we may know Him. If we have seen Christ, we have seen the Father.

B. The purpose of our understanding is to know Him. This is the goal of our faith and the purpose of God in salvation, to know Him. To have an intimate knowledge and relationship of fellowship with Him.

C. His Son Jesus Christ- He is the true God and eternal life. Christ is God. This is an

explicit statement of His deity.

D. Keep yourselves from idols - What are your idols? What has taken the place of God in your life? **Christian, you must forsake it.**