

## 1 John Overview

this is the only epistle that does not follow the IBS outline for “letters”

- no greeting
- no over-arching Summarizing Statement
- no farewell

written more like a Statement of Faith

the author does not identify himself...directly, which is John’s style in his

- Gospel (“the disciple that Jesus loved”)
- other two letters (“the elder”)

The authorship is easily determined by common themes, vocabulary, and date written

written to believers from Ephesus in the 90s AD (John’s 5 were the last books of the Bible written)  
i.e Christianity had been around about 60 years...yet

- denial of the deity of Jesus Christ abounded (his dominant theme)
- false teachers were many and very vocal (the devil is very active in defeat!)

why John wrote this epistle...this Statement of Faith:

1. that we may have fellowship with God and other believers (1:3)
2. that our joy may be full (1:4)
3. that we sin not (2:1) but make holy and pure choices instead
4. that we know our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake (2:12)
5. that we may be aware of the seduction of false teachers (2:26)
6. that we may believe in the name of the son of God (5:13) strengthen our faith
7. that we may know we have eternal life (5:13)...that we may have assurance of our salvation

This is a very personal, loving letter, referring to us, the readers, as

- little children (7 times)
- beloved (5 times)

### General Observations about the book:

much of this letter amplifies John 13-16...the Upper Room Discourse...the intimate, soul-baring teaching of Jesus to His disciples hours before the Cross

God is

1. Life (1:1-2)
2. Light (1:5)
3. Love (4:8)

keywords

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| light        | 5 times |
| darkness     | 6       |
| sin          | 15      |
| love         | 33      |
| know/knoweth | 33      |

What do we KNOW?

- That we know Jesus Christ ...if we obey His commandment to love one another (2:3)
- That we are IN Jesus Christ (2:5)
- That we shall be like Jesus Christ when He returns (3:2)
- That Jesus Christ came to take away our sins (3:5)
- That we have passed from death to life (3:14)
- That we are of the Truth (3:19)
- That Jesus Christ abides in us (3:24)
- How to test the spirits (4:1-3)...JW and Mormons at your front door
- That we abide in God (4:13)
- That we HAVE eternal life (5:13)
- That God hears us (5:15)
- That we are of God (5:19)

Last week, I received this massive book...[ Eternal Security Refuted ]

In John's Statement of Faith, we have the assurance of salvation through

1. Fellowship...complete oneness (1:1 – 2:17)
2. Truth (2:18 – 4:6)
3. Love (4:7 – 5:5)
4. Spirit (5:6-21)

## 1 John Chapter 1

v1 That which was from the beginning...the Word of life:  
speaking of Jesus Christ  
John 1:1-4  
Micah 5:2 ruler in Israel whose goings forth have been from old, from  
everlasting  
Jesus is self-existing, pre-existent, eternal...transcending time and the physical universe

Which we have:

- Heard: "We heard God speak to man...to us!"
- Seen with our eyes: "God appeared to us! When He first made Himself known...and after He was risen!"
- Looked upon: "We gazed at, studied God Who was standing/sitting right in front of us...right next to us!"
- Handled: "We touched God before He died...and after He was risen!"

2 Peter 1:16

John personally

- Saw the Messiah  
laugh and weep  
minister to the sick and the possessed  
perform many miracles  
reveal His glory...  
suffer, die...  
and in His glory, victorious over death
- heard the Messiah talk and pray
- leaned on Him during the Last Supper

truly, "Blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear."  
Matt 13:16

v2 For the life:  
the Source of all life...Life itself...the Living God

was manifested:  
set aside His glory (“dimmed” Himself) and entered into the universe He created

we have seen:  
gazed at Him...studied Him

bear witness that eternal life...was manifested unto us:

John 1:14

John 17:5 glorify Me with the glory I had with you before the world was

Heb 1:1-3

1 Tim 3:16

v3 declare we unto you...that ye also may have fellowship with us...the Father...His Son:

John 1:17-18

John 10:30

John 17:1-3, 20-26

fellowship:

partnership, communion, intimacy, unity...complete oneness

what an awesome truth!

Ps 8:3-4

This is the purpose of our lives...why God created us – for fellowship with Him

v4 these things write we...your joy may be full:  
one of the purposes behind this letter

John 15:11 My joy remain in you...your joy remain in you...that your joy may be full  
John 16:24 ask and receive that your joy may be full  
John 17:13 these things I speak (Lord's prayer)...have My joy fulfilled in themselves

How is our joy made full? By **KNOWING**

- that we have fellowship with God the Father and Jesus Christ
- That we know Jesus Christ...by obeying His commandment to love one another (2:3)
- That we are IN Jesus Christ (2:5)
- That we shall be like Jesus Christ when He returns (3:2)
- That Jesus Christ came to take away our sins (3:5)
- That we have passed from death to life (3:14)
- That Jesus Christ abides in us (3:24)
- That we abide in God (4:13)
- That we HAVE eternal life (5:13)
- That God hears us (5:15)
- That we are of God (5:19)

v5 God is light:  
pure light

- reveals
- illuminates
- cleanses (my teeth...my pool water)
- ...is holy

in this body created for the environment of earth, we are unable to see the sun  
we see sunlight (sunrises, sunsets, daylight)...we do not see the sun...  
because its light is too bright for our eyes  
we are even less able to see God...for He is pure, holy Light  
but someday, in a body created for the heavenly places, we will see The Light (3:2)

in Him is no darkness at all:  
in God there is no

- corruption
- contradiction
- error
- ignorance
- variableness or turning (no changing)
- ...no doubt...

the message we heard and declare:

“...one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, but now I see.” (John 9:25)  
(when challenged by the self-righteous and false shepherds)

the cultists that deny the deity of Jesus Christ (4:1-3) need to help me with the algebra  
God is Light  
Jesus is Light (John 1:4-9, John 8:12)  
Therefore, Jesus is God

v6 If we say...and walk in darkness, we lie:

If we say, "I believe in Jesus Christ! I am one with Him..."  
but we live

- like the devil
- in sin
- in self-indulgence
- contrary to the Word of God
- ...in unbelief

then we

- lie...
- are hypocrites...actors in a farce...because fellowship is impossible  
2 Cor 6:14-16a
- do not the truth...John 3:18-21

proof of fellowship...complete oneness...is obedience...doing the Word (James 1:22)  
Luke 6:46-49

v7 But if we walk in the light...we have fellowship:

if we walk by faith...in belief...holy...denying ourselves...with Jesus...  
we have complete oneness with God and with other believers...because  
the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin:

fellowship is possible only in righteousness...purity...holiness...and agreement

the pure, sinless blood of Jesus Christ purifies

(continual present [ I AM ] tense...like standing under a waterfall)  
of ALL sin...except unbelief in Him...disagreement...the unpardonable sin

v8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves:  
if we say, "I am pure! There is no sin in me. I do not need the 'I AM waterfall.'"...  
we seduce ourselves in a lie (Jer 17:9)...  
because we still have the sin nature present in us...(Rom 7)

Yes...we have been freed from the guilt and penalty and power of sin  
Yes...we are continually cleansed from all sin  
But...in this fallen tabernacle we still have the sin nature that relentlessly strives to master  
us

We might deceive ourselves into thinking we "have arrived"...but no one else.  
Our spouses, children, parents, friends, family are not deceived

Such self-righteous thinking is like a man I saw in Safeway that was obviously balding...  
only he was wearing what hair he had left in a very conspicuous manner.  
It was really long and "plastered" in directions that hair does not naturally grow.  
I could hardly stop staring!  
The only one who was oblivious to the spectacle was the man himself.

None of us on this side of eternity get very far away from impure thought, words, or  
actions

v9 If we confess our sins:  
but if we say, "I am not pure. My sin nature is still trying to master me.  
What I just thought or said or did was not pure."

He is faithful and just to forgive...to cleanse from all unrighteousness:  
if we acknowledge our imperfection and impurity and unrighteousness, God is

- faithful to forgive our sins (Ps 103:8-14)
- and just in doing so...because those sins have been paid for in full by His Son Jesus Christ with His blood...the acceptable sacrifice that purifies us of all wrongs and corruptions that separated us from God (Is 59:1-2)

When?

- Forgiven: on the Cross...the place of atoning sacrifice for all our sins  
Known or unknown  
Willful or ignorant  
Spoken or thought or done  
Past or present or future

ALL borne by Jesus Christ on the Cross and paid for by His blood  
ALL nailed to the Cross and pardoned at that time by the eternal God that  
transcends time

- Cleansed: when we believe (John 6:29, John 13:4-10)...  
AND continually (v7)

- Confess: ("to agree with")  
when the conviction of the Holy Spirit is humbly submitted to

confession describes the response of the person to the work of God...  
it is not the cause of the forgiveness...  
the grace of God is the cause of forgiveness

Required if confession is true: repentance and obedience

- the goodness of God leads to repentance (Rom 2:4)...
- godly sorrow...when we realize we have grieved God, Who is so gracious with us and merciful to us...finishes repentance by directing us back to God and to making holy choices motivated by our love for Him Who first loved us (2 Cor 7:9-10)

Matt 3:5-8...i.e. repentance and obedience



all of our sins were paid for and forgiven on the Cross...those past, present, and future...  
by the Lord that transcends time

yet as we...in the dimension of time and with a sinful nature...fall short of the glory of  
God and sin, the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin and we must come clean...

"You are right, Lord, I am wrong. I agree with You. Forgive me."

He already has...we just were not in agreement with Him on a point of holiness, wrestling  
with Him instead

Then we simply receive the forgiveness as accomplished and resume our walk with Him

When the believer sins

1. grieve that we have dishonored the One Who loves us so
2. confess our agreement with Him
3. repent...go back toward the Light
4. express thanksgiving for His forgiveness...already given
5. resume our walk with Him...the sin already being nailed to the Cross
6. grow in grace and in our love for the Lord

roles and responsibilities:

we: confess

Jesus:

is...always

faithful

just

to

forgive

cleanse

Looks a bit lopsided, doesn't it?

Eph 2:8-9 is too

come clean and get cleansed

v10 If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar:

if we say, "I am perfect in thought and word and deed..."

we call God a liar Who declares all men as Lawbreakers (Rom 3:10, 23)

notice the downward spiral

1. we lie (v6)
2. we are deceived (v8)
3. we call God a liar

## 1 John Chapter 2

The church was battling Gnostic heresy late in the first century

i.e. God did not come in the flesh to the world...Jesus was just a good man

As the elder statesman of the church, John writes a Statement of Faith

- to refute the false teachers attacking the deity of Jesus Christ
- so we can **know**
  1. God's love for us
  2. our salvation is assured by
    - Fellowship with God
    - The Truth of God
    - The Love of God
    - The Spirit of God

reviewing Ch 1:6-10, John runs thru 5 scenarios of fellowship with God, Who is Life and Light

1. actor/hypocrite: No fellowship, no Light
2. walking by faith: fellowship and Light
3. self-deception: No fellowship, no Light
4. walking in agreement fellowship and Light
5. call God a liar: no fellowship, no Light

when we live by faith and obedience...we have fellowship with God

when we live in unbelief and disobedience...we do not have fellowship with God

v1 little children:  
“darlings”

these things write I unto you that ye sin not:  
Purpose #3 of 7: that we sin not

to sin not...to believe and obey the Word of God  
lifestyle: God’s will for our lives

to sin (err)...to disobey the Lord...because don’t really believe the Word  
disobedience: every man doing what is right in his own eyes

lifestyle: our will for our lives

we can choose to obey or to disobey  
As unbelievers, we never had a choice...we could only obey sin.  
Now, as born-again believers, we have a choice...because the Son has set us free

Sometimes...we make the wrong choice...the self-centered choice

We have an advocate:  
“intercessor”

Rom 8:34 at the right hand of the Father

Heb 7:25 He is able to save to the uttermost those that come to God by Him...  
because He lives to make intercession for them

1 Tim 2:5-6 There is one God and one mediator between God and men...the man  
Jesus Christ Who gave Himself a ransom for all

By grace thru faith, we have an undefeated Defense Attorney representing us before God  
refuting the charges of our Accuser and Prosecuting attorney (Rev 12:10)...

Jesus Christ, the righteous:

THE one and only Life acceptable to God standing on His own merits

Rom 3:10, 23

Heb 4:14-15 ...we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus  
the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.  
For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the  
feeling of our infirmities but was in all points tempted like  
as we are, yet without sin

By grace thru faith, God accounts the righteousness of Jesus Christ to us!  
therefore...there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus  
(Rom 8:1)

v2 He is the propitiation for our sins:  
Jesus Christ is our righteousness...and...the propitiation for our sins...  
our rebellion, disobedience, disagreement, wickedness...  
as revealed by the Law of God

propitiation:

1. Gr. word is also translated “mercy seat”...  
the lid of the Ark of the Covenant...  
the place where condemnation is removed...paid for with innocent blood
2. means “atonement”...at-one-ment with the Restorer of fellowship

because of the atonement of THE acceptable sacrifice of the Lamb of God, God deals with man

- “down, through” the mercy seat...not
- “up by” the Law in the Ark of the Covenant

John 1:17

when we sin (disobedience)...fellowship is broken but restored  
by the work of at-one-ment by Jesus Christ (v1b-2)  
when we agree (humble, true confession...Ch 1:9)

not for ours only...whole world:

Jesus Christ died not just for the elect but for all men.  
His sacrifice was more than sufficient for all sins of all men in all ages

John 3:16 For God so loved the world...that he gave His only begotten Son  
that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have  
everlasting life

yet many believers stand on a dogma that Jesus only died for the elect (Calvinism)  
How do they reconcile this truth with their pre-conceived idea?

The gift of salvation is offered to every man.

all man need do is

1. deny himself...  
his will for his life...what is right in his own eyes...
2. receive by faith the gift of eternal life  
God’s will for his life...what is right in God’s eyes

The Source of Life paid for all to have eternal life...but the gift is not forced upon man...

- we make a reasonable choice motivated by love
- we enter into a fellowship of agreement and obedience

v3 we do know that we know if we keep his commandments:  
not “wonder”...or “hope”...but KNOW that we know...thru obedience  
NOT by keeping the Law of Moses

Acts 15:5-11

Gal 3:1-3, 22-26

Rom 10:4

Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to every one  
that believes

but Love...the Law of Love

Ch 3:23

Matt 22:36-40

Love God and neighbor

John 13:34-35

Love others as He has loved us

1 Cor 8:6-13

in John 14 Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments”...to love

there is no doubt about knowing Jesus when we love

- Him...
- our neighbors as ourselves...
- each other actively and sacrificially like He loves us

if you are “head-over-heels, crazy” in love with your wife, do you

- look for ways to irritate/annoy/alienate/ignore her?
- cheat on her?
- make sure you always get your way...or
- do you seek to please her?

we KNOW that we know Him when we obey Him...which pleases Him  
the “proof of the pudding” lies in obedience

- our love
- our fellowship with The Father, the Son, other believers...based on agreement

v4 know...keepeth not...a liar...truth not in:  
verbal assent...but no active agreement...no fellowship but separation  
just like the demons

there is no fellowship in disobedience...because disobedience

- is disagreement  
Can two walk together except they be agreed? (Amos 3:3)
- is putting our desires and our will above God’s...  
just as Lucifer did (Is 14:12-14)
- leads to greater disobedience

Hence...1 Sam 15:22-23

v5      whoso keepeth his word...the love of God is perfected:  
            conversely, obedience leads to greater obedience...more complete and more responsive  
            and the love of God is completed in obedience

Let's get the "flow" of love

1. God first loved us...when we were children of disobedience (Eph 2:1-9)  
    with a supernatural...unconditional...self-less...gracious...love
2. Drawn by His love and grace, we accept the gift of salvation by faith
3. Then, He indwells and seals (until the Day of Redemption!)
4. His love...He is love...is implanted in us...and we love Him  
    Ch 4:19
5. Now, because we no longer desire to annoy/irritate/alienate/ignore Him, we are  
    motivated by love for Him vs ourselves...and we deny ourselves to please  
    Him
6. His implanted love grows, multiplies, and bears fruit (John 15:1-8)
7. His love is perfected/completed (Phil 2:12-13)

With every opportunity to please Him or ourselves that we choose to deny ourselves and  
    please Him, His love in us grows more complete and more responsive...  
and we KNOW we are abiding in Christ

in Deut 11, Moses is reciting the recent history of God's interaction with the new nation of  
    Israel...to the children of those who did not believe and died in the wilderness  
Saved out of the world by the work of God...obedience was the self-less step of faith  
    required to occupy their inheritance

Deut 11:8-15, 22-25

Disobedience was the selfish step of unbelief on the avenue to destruction

Deut 11:16-17

So it is with our inheritance (1 Cor 3:9-15)...saved by grace thru faith in Jesus Christ  
The difference between

- Building materials
- Rom 7 (defeated Christian life) and Rom 8 (victorious Christian life)

is the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to obey...to love Him and others as He loves us

By this we know that we are in Him:

we were helpless and hopeless children of disobedience...saved from eternal death,  
    transformed into new creatures and sons of God

- by His initiative: love...grace...power...work of at-one-ment/justification
- with our response: humility...submission...faith (H + B + **Q** + W)

we live an empowered victorious Christian life...of love...in Him

- by His initiative: love...grace...power...work of sanctification (Phil 1:6)
- with our response: humility...submission...faith (H + B + **Q** + W)

the "struggle to obey" is our wrestling match (Jacob became Israel, "governed by God")

v6 He who says...ought himself also to walk:  
 this almost goes without saying...but the Holy Spirit needs to tells us so we make the  
 obvious connection between unity/fellowship and active agreement/obedience

if we abide...dwell...in Christ, we WILL automatically live as He lived...  
 walking in the Spirit  
 and there a spiritual fellowship...we “keep/love/walk/live” by the power of His Spirit

if we are not abiding in Him...not walking where the Lord walks...  
 we are abiding in and walking in “self”...walking in the flesh  
 and the spiritual fellowship is broken  
 ...time for agreement (Ch 1:9) to get things right

Matt 16:24 is the bottom line  
 it is initiated by God with His self-less love for unholy man  
 justified man responds to it with the self-less love of God for God...love is returned  
 and the two walk in agreement...fellowship  
 Amos 3:3 Can two walk together except they be agreed?

v7 no new commandment, but an old commandment:  
 this commandment of love is not new  
 God has always desired a loving relationship with His beloved creature  
 Ch 3:11

the message to us today is the same as to Adam –  
 “Love me. Walk with Me. Fellowship with Me.”

Adam, created in the image of God, walked with God in

- Life (1:1-2)
- Light (1:5)
- Love (4:8)

But the love had to be proven...by obedience

Adam and Eve walked in the Garden of God with God during the cool of the day...  
 until their disobedience/disagreement (desire to please self vs to please God)  
 broke the fellowship

the result of their choice to love self rather than love God...  
 manifested in disobedience to the command of God...  
 was the loss of Life and Light...and fellowship  
 ...but not Love...for God is love...and unchanging! (PTL)  
 ...Who promised a covering for disobedience

v8 new commandment...true in him and in you:  
“Love one another as I have loved you.”

true love...self-less, active, sacrificial love of another

darkness is past and the true light now shineth:  
the love of God...Who is Life and Light and Love

- revealed the darkness in our hearts
- indwells our hearts
- is to shine thru us into the darkness around us...
- as we love others as Jesus Christ has loved us

Matt 5:14-16

John continues his Statement of Faith

- to refute the false teachers attacking the deity of Jesus Christ
- so we can **know**
  1. God’s love for us...this is the most intimate book in the Bible
  2. our salvation is assured by
    - Fellowship with God
    - The Truth of God
    - The Love of God
    - The Spirit of God

Fellowship:

- unity and communion and intimacy with God...
- agreement based on love...proven by obedience

v9 saith he is in the light and hateth his brother is in darkness:  
If we say we are a believer, living in the light of Jesus...  
but we hate...“detest” or “love less”...our brother

- preferring ourselves over our brother
- embittered toward our brother...

we are in reality living in darkness...  
and our “light” is the counterfeit light of self

hate...preferring yourself over God and over your brother/neighbor...reflects  
disobedience of God and disagreement with God (Ch 3:11-12)



v10 loveth his brother...there is none occasion of stumbling in him:  
we love our brother by preferring him and his needs above our own  
“Greater love has no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends.”  
John 15:13...on His way to the Cross, loving us

Rom 5:6-8

Do we love Jesus as much as He loves us?

love is gauged by “the least”...the least loveable  
we love Jesus only as much as we love the person we love the least  
the Law of Love is a higher standard...is supernatural

love is

- what we do...not just what we feel and say
- denying ourselves
- preferring our brother before us...even “the least”
- living in fellowship...agreement with and obedience to God  
obedience is doing...and doing with an attitude of longing to please  
not reluctantly  
begrudgingly  
“dragging our feet”  
muttering all-the-way

And there is “absolutely no” snares, offense, or stumbling in love...God’s love  
because love is

- Jesus Christ...His very nature
- the True Light that reveals, illuminates, and cleanses

v11 in darkness...knoweth not...blinded:

those in the light

- can see
- know God's way

those in darkness

- are blinded
- know not God's way

blindness is the presence of darkness...

Light is not blinding...darkness is

spiritual blindness is a choice to disagree with and disobey God...to love and please self

blinded by the darkness of self, we stumble on

- self-will...
- self-centeredness...
- self-sufficiency...etc

do you get the sense that there are no shades of gray with God, Who is light (Ch 1:5)?

- Yes or No
- Belief or unbelief
- Light or darkness
- Agree or disagree
- Obey or disobey
- Life or death
- Love or hate
- Friend or foe

There are no "gray areas" in which to wander...only

1. the Light of God
2. the wilderness of
  - unbelief
  - darkness
  - disagreement
  - disobedience

our lives – choices and words – are not a shade of gray measured against the other grays...

they are either light or darkness...

and Jesus Christ...the Light of the World that reveals, illuminates and cleanses...  
is the measurement

v12 because your sins are forgiven:

Purpose #4: because your sins are forgiven for Jesus' name sake

lest we

- forget
- listen to the condemnation of the slanderer
- believe the deception of the father of lies

the Holy Spirit makes it quite clear that our sins are “sent away” by the authority of Jesus Christ's name...

not because of

- anything we do
- we are a lighter shade of gray than 51% of the rest of the world

this is called “grace”

for 34 years, the Roman Church told me

- I had to pay for my sins myself in Purgatory
- I could not know whether I would go to heaven or not

But God wants me to know

- my sins are already paid for...in full!
- He has saved me...I am a citizen of heaven! (Phil 3:20)

So just who is the Director of Dogma in the Roman Church that does not want me to know these truths...?

John 17:1-10, 20-24

Notice

- the fellowship of the Father and the Son...unity and intimacy
  - the agreement and obedience of the Son to the Father
  - that we are mixed up in that Divine fellowship and obedience
- How?

As a love gift from the Father to the Son...a gift that glorifies the Son!

We who

- agree with Him...with the reasoning He has given us (Is 1:18)
- believe in Him...with the faith He has given us (Rom 14:3)
- love Him...with the love He has given us (Rom 5:8)

are

- forgiven of all our sins by God
- given eternal life by grace thru faith

and enjoy the fellowship of the Father and the Son (Ch 1:2-3) because, through us

- The Father glorifies the Son Who glorifies the Father
- The Father loves the Son Who loves the Father  
(the “pudding” is in obedience)

the Holiness of the Father and the Son requires the payment for all the sins of all the world

The Love of the Father and the Son for us involves grace...

His Personal payment for sin...and wiping the slate clean for all who

- Believe
- Agree
- Love
- Obey

the Holiness and Love of God that saves fallen man and restores the fellowship glorifies the Father Who glorifies the Son Who glorifies the Father

So...the work of salvation/redemption is all about....God...the Father and the Son...

It is not about us...for, apart from God in us, there is no good thing in us

(Rom 7:18)

We are beneficiaries of God's work and God's nature

so ALL the glory goes to the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world there is NONE left for "self"

Rev 4:10-11

Rev 5:12-13

By this verse, what do we KNOW?

- The Truth
- The Love of God
- The Grace of God

What do our lost loved ones and friends NEED TO KNOW?

- The Truth – they don't believe it (Have they even heard it?)
- The Love of God – they don't know that God loves them unconditionally, sacrificially, self-lessly, unfailingly, longsuffering
- The Grace of God – they do not understand it...which gets back to believing

v13 fathers...young men...little children:

- fathers: have known the eternal Son Jesus
- young men: ("over 40 years old") have overcome the wicked one and his temptations (v16)
- little children: "darlings" have known the Father...revealed by the Son, Jesus Christ

we overcome the wicked one...the destroyer and slanderer and deceiver...by faith

Ch 5:4-5

The devil sows seeds of doubt...but we know God loves us

Rom 8:37-39

notice all are present tense

v14 fathers...young men:  
seems like a repeat...

two additions for the young men: overcoming by faith requires

- are strong – mighty men, powerful in spiritual warfare (Zech 4:6)
- in the Word – eating meat...not milk, not fluff (Ps 119:9, Matt 4:4)

notice:

- both are past tense
- there is no past tense for “little children”...only present tense (...I AM)

v15 love not the world, neither the things in the world:  
like Adam and Eve chose to...the genesis of our sinful nature

if any man love of the world, love of the Father is not in him:  
there are only 2

- ways to walk
- kingdoms in which to live
- gods with which to agree and to serve

and they are mutually exclusive

there are gray areas...there is no fence to straddle!

we CANNOT have it both ways...we must choose one and reject the other

James 4:4 You adulterers and adulteresses, know you not that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God

There is no darkness in God...no unbelief, no disagreement, no disobedience, no death

So do not be deceived – you CANNOT have it both ways

1. God’s blessings for obedience to His ways
2. the world’s “blessings” for obedience to its ways

To pursue both ways is to choose no fellowship with God...

To pursue fellowship with God is to reject the world’s ways and the world’s “blessings”

Heart check: so which is it for you? Which fellowship is yours?

v16 is not of the Father but is of the world:

Satan's age-old strategies of attack

- lust of the flesh
- lust of the eyes
- pride of life

he used these on Eve, Jesus, me...you

lust and pride are totally inconsistent with the nature of God...but totally consistent with the nature of the world and the sinful nature of man (self)

God is absolutely holy...absolutely separated from an unholy world

Nothing about the world's ways is God's ways...

In darkness there is no Light and in Light there is no darkness

v17 the world is passing away:

darkness is passing away (v7) and, therefore, so is this world

what motivates you

- that which is passing away?
- that which is forever?

doeth the will of God abideth forever:

“Love me.

Walk with Me.

Fellowship with Me.

Love others as you love yourself.

Love each other as I have loved you.”

We have a choice...do we trust in and serve

1. the world and its lust...and die
2. God and His love...and live forever

Which of those two is the rational choice?

If you have yet to,

- choose wisely and choose God and His love
- make a Statement of Faith in Jesus Christ...
- have the assurance of salvation thru Fellowship with Jesus Christ

Agree with God...with the reasoning He has given you

Believe in Jesus Christ and the Father Who sent Him...with the faith He has given you

Love God...with the love He has given you (Rom 5:8)

Know you are forgiven of all our sins by God

Enjoy the fellowship of the Father and the Son (Ch 1:2-3)

Receive as a gift given eternal life by grace thru faith

Be a part of the love gift from the Father to the Son...that glorifies the Son!

## KNOW

- The Truth
- The Love of God
- The Grace of God

My yearning for every person here is that you

- Know how much God loves you
- grow deeper in love with Jesus Christ
- hear Him more clearly...and the noise of the world fade away
- obey Him more completely
- let go of the cares of this life and cling to the realities of eternal life
- be as zealous for Jesus Christ as you are about the things of the world...  
as zealous as He is for you
- Jesus Christ would be the burning passion of your heart...  
as you are of His
- be young men...  
overcomers by faith...mighty in Spirit...living in the Word of God
- know you are God's "darling"

v18 now let's at this Statement of Faith and the assurance of salvation by God's Truth

Little children:

“darlings”

God the Holy Spirit is pouring out His heart to us...  
in the face of widespread denial and doubt

it is the last time:

the end days...the last hour...

darkness is passing away (v8, 17) and, therefore, so is this world  
but it is darkest just before sunrise...the last hour  
a time of moral free-for-all...  
where almost anything goes...  
when every man doing what is right in his own eyes

heard that the antichrist shall come:

The Coming World Leader, The Beast

2 Thes 2:1-12

v1 coming...gathering  
v3 falling away...revealed in darkness  
v6 God's time...  
v7 light removed first (1 Thes 4:12-17)  
v8 then darkness is consumed by the Light  
v9 those in darkness do not love the truth  
v11 a time of hardening, gathering, destroying

ala Joshua 11:1-5, 14, 18-20

after 400 years of long suffering, a time of hardening, gathering, destroying

this beast is coming...because God said he is...but we should not be looking for the  
Antichrist but for Jesus Christ!

Believers (lovers of truth) will see Jesus Christ...

unbelievers (haters of truth) will see Antichrist



many antichrists...we know it is the last time:  
the end times...the last hour before the return of the Light...is known as a time of  
darkness/anti-light/anti-truth

not only is THE "Antichrist" coming...but also many

1. antichrists...individuals

- who are opposed to Jesus Christ...
- who hate the truth, love and grace of God
- counterfeits seeking to deceive followers of the Truth

2. "antichrist"...an attitude and a heart condition...

a rejection of God's absolute, unchanging truth...

which widespread in the world today

not just the outrageous defiance ala sodomite marriages...

(even by lesbian rabbis!)

but also a subtle deterioration of the faith

I heard that the number of committed church-goers since 1990 has  
decreased by 50%

a "falling away"?

"...when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

Luke 18:8

we know this is and will be happening...because Jesus told us (Matt 24:23-27)

v27 the real appearing...the test of Truth

2 Thes 2:8b destroy him with the brightness of his coming

v19 they went out from us...not of us:

departed physically after having been in their midst...but were spiritually disconnected

therefore, there was no fellowship (unity, communion, intimacy (Ch 1:2-3) because there  
was no agreement

if they had been of us...continued with us:

If we were of the same mind...the mind of Christ...they would have stayed with us...  
in agreement/one-ness

made manifest that they were not all of us:

their departure, based on disagreement, is proof that there was no fellowship with  
Father, Son, us (Ch 1:3)

They were imposters masquerading in the body.

Note: a healthy body purges itself of poison within it  
cancer must be cut out to keep the body healthy

Jesus knows who the imposters are

Matt 7:21-27

v20 have an unction of the Holy One:  
“anointing”

Holy One = “sacred, pure, blameless”

Holy One of Israel spoken of 30 times by prophet Isaiah

Ps 16:10 Thou will not leave my soul in hell, neither will thou suffer  
thine Holy One to see corruption

[Acts 3:13-15](#)

Holy One = Jesus Christ

[1 Peter 1:11](#)

We have the anointing of the Holy One of Israel, Jesus Christ...the “Anointed One”

the OT anointing with oil of kings and priests – is a shadow of [Rev 1:5-6](#)

Ye know all things:

All knowledge comes by the revelation of the all-knowing God

[John 14:26](#)

[John 16:13](#)

v21 no lie is of the truth:

Purpose #4: because you know the truth

We have received the Truth that God has revealed to us

- The Light of the World
- The Bread of Life
- The Resurrection and the Life
- The Way, the Truth, and the Life
- The Good Shepherd

there is no darkness in God...there is no lie in God’s Truth

A lie is the opposite of...opposed to...the truth

It is impossible for God to lie (Heb 6:18)

If you hear the Truth...you know God is speaking

If God is speaking...you know it is the truth

Satan is the father of lies

If what you hear is a lie...because you know the Truth...you know who is speaking

If satan is speaking...you know it is a lie

v22 a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ:

a liar...one opposed to the Truth...is anyone who

- rejects Jesus Christ as “the Anointed One”...
- denies the deity of Jesus Christ

as revealed by the light of the Word of God, Jesus Christ is

- the Seed of the Woman...
- the Son of David...
- the Holy One of Israel...
- the Messiah...the Christ
- the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace
- the Word of God made flesh

sent by God the Father

To deny Jesus is God...that Jesus is the Christ...is to

- deny The Truth...and believe a lie
- deny the Father Who sent Him...and receive a counterfeit

the denial of the deity of Jesus Christ is the denial of God

v23 whosoever denieth the Son...hath not the Father:  
man CANNOT

- reject the deity of Jesus Christ AND accept the God of AI&J...
- believe in the God of AI&J and NOT believe in the deity of Jesus Christ

John 5:19-23

if one does not believe the deity of Jesus Christ, they believe a lie from a liar, a false god  
Luke 11:23 he that is not with me is against me and he that gathers not with me  
scatters

A. Mormons and JW's CANNOT be Christians...cannot enjoy the fellowship of believers  
and the Father and the Son (Ch 1:3)...because

- they deny the Son, thereby denying the Father
- their father is a liar (John 8:44)
- they have been deceived (2 Cor 4:3-4)

they are in darkness, wandering in unbelief...they are POWs needing to be rescued

2 Tim 2:23-26

By denying Jesus, they are denying the God they claim to profess

Instead, they are professing a counterfeit...satan the counterfeiter is their father

they need

- Light – because they are blinded by darkness
- Love – they don't know God's unconditional, sacrificial, self-less love
- Grace – they do not understand it

B. Others, who profess a belief in God but deny the deity of Jesus Christ

(just a prophet, a good teacher, a good man)...Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism...  
also believe the counterfeiter

C. Unbelieving Jews deny their God, the God of AI&J, when they reject Jesus Christ as  
their Messiah, the Holy One of Israel

but he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also:

a parenthetical thought...added by the KJ translators

the truth: one must confess the Son to have both Father and Son...

one must have both Father and Son to have eternal life

Is 43:10-11

if you know the truth, know you have salvation

v24 abide...remain...continue:  
all three are the same Gr word "to stay"

have heard from the beginning:

Love Me.

Walk with Me.

Fellowship/Agree with Me.

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Love each other as I have loved you."

Stay...live in God's love and in His truth...and know you are in fellowship with both the  
Father and the Son

v25 promise...promised...eternal life:  
the promise of eternal life is for those who agree...hear, believe, obey

God has promised us His Life!

He is eternal, we are vapor...until He gives us His life

John 6:37-40

John 10:27-30

we have eternal life...NO DOUBT...because there is no darkness in light

v26 have I written...them that seduce you:

Purpose #5: to warn of the enemy's seduction...the counterfeit

seduce = "to cause to roam from safety or truth, to deceive"

the seducers are false teachers...deceivers, counterfeits, antichrists

know the truth and you will see/hear the lie

1 Thes 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good

Acts 17:11 Bereans were more noble...readiness of mind

v27 need not that any man teach you...all things:  
How can you know the truth?  
God will reveal it to you, teach it to you via the anointing of

- the Word (John 17:17)...Jesus Christ
- the Holy Spirit...the Spirit of Christ

I am not the teacher, I am the messenger of the Teacher

John is not saying the Church does not need men to teach the Word of God  
the Lord calls such men (Eph 4:11-12) so they are needed.

But man learns only by the ministry of the Holy Spirit working in his heart.  
Some hearing the teaching will be enlightened, blessed, encouraged, strengthened.  
Others will hear the same teaching and be wondering when it will be over.  
The difference is the reception of and the response to the working of the Holy Spirit  
in one man's heart and not the other.

1 Cor 2:7-14

v28 little children:  
understand the intimacy being communicated to us by God!!!

abide in Him...have confidence...not be ashamed:  
Jesus Christ, whether man believes in Him or denies Him, IS coming back!

Therefore, love Him...agree with Him...obey Him...stay in Him  
So you

- have assurance of your salvation
- are not ashamed when He returns

it is God's desire that every generation believe they are the last generation before Jesus  
returns...that He is coming in their lifetime

With such watchfulness comes the senses of eminency and urgency and intimacy, which  
are so purifying in individual and corporate life in the Church.

v29 if ye know...ye know...born of Him:  
Since you know that Jesus Christ is the holy and acceptable mediator between a holy  
and just God and fallen man...  
you also know that those who love/obey Him are righteous...holy and acceptable...  
born of the Spirit of God and reconciled forever

not because we are good enough but because Jesus is pure and holy and righteous

that's the truth!

## 1 John Chapter 3

John's Statement of Faith continues...with a message authored from outside of time...  
an overwhelming message, one deeper than our ability to understand...  
a message we must receive by faith in the Word of God:

"I love you!"

v1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us:  
God the Father is showering us with His love

His love is the very highest expression of the relationship He desires with us  
His love defines how He acts toward us – selflessly, sacrificially, graciously

Just as God is

1. Light (Ch 1:5)
2. Life (Ch 1:1-2)

He IS

3. Love (Ch 4:8, 16)  
1 Cor 13:4-8a

His love is apparent in His

- Provision
- Protection
- Longsuffering
- Mercy
- Grace
- Forgiveness
- ...Son

He loves

- The least loveable...all the nose-thumbing prodigals...even the homosexuals getting married in direct defiance of His Word
- The most unlovely...me
- His enemies

He loves

- unconditionally
- continually

How much does God love us? A shadow of His love is Hosea (= “salvation”)

- his entire life is under the direction of the Lord, for the purpose of instructing us about His love
- God commands him to marry a whore, who bears him 3 children
- she loses interest in him and goes back to her lusts, whoring around and bears many other children
- When she’s old and undesirable, he goes to the slave market to buy her back, bring her home, and restore her...to love her
- How great are His mercies and grace? God pursues us with His love!
- How much does God love? With an undying love!  
Even when we are unfaithful to Him...committing idolatry and spiritual adultery.

We should be called the sons of God:

by His love, we are called “children” of God”

John 1:12-13

Gal 4:4-7

Rom 8:14-16

Rom 8:28-30

The love of God is so great, so rich, that

- He sent His only begotten Son that by our believing in Him, we might become a son of God...
- adopted us into the family of God and made us heir of God and a joint heir with Jesus Christ.

I don’t if I fully apprehend this truth...I stand in awe of it.

The world knoweth us not...knew him not:

“He was in the world and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not.”  
John 1:10

knew...understand

The world does not understand God...His love and His grace...  
therefore they do not believe Him

so it only follows that...

- covered by the love of the “unknown” God...hid in Him (Col 3:1-4)
- we are also “unknown” i.e. the world does not understand born-again Christians

therefore...even though everyone wants to be accepted and to be cool and to “fit in”...  
nothing is more cool to be accepted by God and to be in love with Him!



v2 Beloved, now we are the sons of God:  
Beloved – a term of intimate endearment...like “little children”

now we are...present tense!

doth not appear what we shall be:

it is not yet apparent how we shall be...future tense...i.e. what our mansion will look like

John 14:1-3

This body is a tent...He is preparing a mansion!

In the Kingdom of God, will we recognize each other? Yes

How will we look?

What about my big sister and big brother?

Will we all be the same “age” as Adam when he was created?

We do not know...but we do know it will be awesome!

“And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. “

Eph 2:6-7

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”

1 Cor 2:9

and we also know...

but we know...we shall be like Him...shall see Him as He is:

but we DO know

- Jesus Christ will appear personally
- We will be similar to Him...eternal, immortal  
“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.”  
2 Cor 3:18  
“For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.”  
1 Cor 15:53
- We will be able to see Him as He is...glorified  
“For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.”  
1 Cor 13:12  
“Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.”  
John 17:24

What else matters? This truth melts all fear (Ch 4:18a)

But back to the present...what about right now?

At the present time, I'm a son of God.

And at the present time, the Holy Spirit is working in my life to conform me into the image of Jesus Christ.

v3 every man that hath this hope...purifieth himself:

every one that holds onto this certainty

- the Lord Jesus is our hope (1 Tim 1:1)
- the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ is our blessed hope (Titus 2:13)

is purified by it...

because Jesus Christ is pure..."clean and perfect"

if Jesus Christ is in you, you are pure!

- That is how God...who sees the end and the beginning at the same time... sees you
- The father of lies says something totally to the contrary...but Rom 8:1

How do I know this is true? By faith in the Word of God

the truth of the eminent return of Jesus Christ (v2) purifies me...because I am not wanting to be ashamed at His coming (Ch 2:28)

faith yields love...which proven by obedience...which purifies us

v4 Whosoever commiteth sin transgresseth also the law:

whosoever

this is an all-inclusive statement

commits

- lives in...
- abides in...
- stays in...
- dwells in...
- obeys...
- agrees with

sin

- to err
- missing the mark  
what is the mark? Matt 5:48  
Jesus Christ is the Mark (v3)

violates the law of God

Rom 3:10, 23

The just shall live by faith...not by the Law

Gal 2:16-20

Gal 3:11-14, 22-26

v5 ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins:

we KNOW John 1:14, 29

we KNOW God came to remove our sin and to restore our fellowship with Him

in him is no sin:

Jesus Christ is pure and perfect...blameless...without spot or blemish (1 Peter 1:19)

“sin” and “Jesus Christ” are mutually exclusive

there is no sin in Jesus, there is no sin (darkness) in God, therefore Jesus is God

because He is without sin, only He could remove our sin

and that is why He came!

Phil 2:5-8 is true because He loves you and me!

He is saying to us, “I love you!”

He Who had none of that which separates me from God (Is 59:1-2) took all of mine in

order to reconcile me with the Father for all eternity

- v6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not:  
the “outside of time” perspective of God Who is love of those who are
- His children
  - not His children

the distinction is sin...continual, willful, unrepentant rebellion

First, His children

- “sin” and “Jesus Christ” are mutually exclusive...
- but because of His love for us, He came to purify us by becoming sin for us and defeating the power of sin (death, John 3:16)...
- and because we believe on Him whom the Father sent (John 6:29)...
- “sin” and “sons of God” are also mutually exclusive!
- His children will not continue in sin (“sinneth” is in the perfect tense)

How do I know this is true? By faith in the Word of God (v2)

The Spirit of Christ **in** us testifies that we are **in** Christ...where there is no sin

Secondly, not His children

- Whosoever sins  
Misses the mark...errs  
Jesus Christ is the mark, is the Truth  
Whoever continues living in willful sin and rejects Jesus Christ
- Hath not seen Him  
cannot discern Him...because that requires faith  
John 20:27-29  
1 Cor 2:7-14
- neither known Him  
does not understand Him...so they do not believe in Him  
man can only know Jesus when he believes...has faith in Him

If someone claims to have Jesus but leads an unchanged life, ie keeps living the old lifestyle of sin, you must call into question the claim of having Jesus

v7 Little children:  
darlings...are you getting God's drift?

let no man deceive you:  
do not fall for the fast, smooth talk of a seducer...he is out for himself, not for you

How?  
Know the truth (Acts 17:11, John 17:17)

he that doeth righteousness is righteous...he is righteous:  
"doeth" is the same Gr word as "commiteth" in v4

He that

- lives in...
- abides in...
- stays in...
- dwells in...
- obeys...
- agrees with

righteousness

John 15:12-17

Matt 16:24

Be holy in your lifestyle...for I AM holy (1 Peter 1:15-16)

John 3:18-21

is righteous

- just
- holy
- innocent

just as Jesus Christ is righteous

the Son is...we are sons hid in Him...therefore, we are  
we are righteous because Jesus is righteous...therefore we "do" righteousness

the "foundation" of this truth is Jesus Christ...not us!  
Truth: Jesus Christ is righteous...so we are...so we do  
lie: we do righteousness...so we are (Is 64:6)

how do I know this is true: By faith in the Word of God (v2)

Luke 18:9-14

Forrest Gump ("Stupid is as stupid does") modified  
NOT... "Righteous is as Righteous does."  
Works based salvation (centered in my performance, my flesh):  
BUT... "Righteous does as Righteous is."  
Spirit-led, salvation by grace thru faith:

v8 he that commiteth sin is of the devil:

he who

- lives in...
- abides in...
- stays in...
- dwells in...
- continues in...
- obeys...
- agrees with

sin is a child of the devil...

Eph 2:2-3

- Flesh vs spirit
- Indulge self vs deny self
- Disobey God vs obey God

These the devil did from the beginning...and sold to Eve in the Garden

For this purpose the Son of God...destroy the works of the devil:

satan

- hates God...is seeking to supplant Him
- hates man...is seeking to destroy him via deception, temptation, disobedience

so the deceiver/tempter/slanderer deceived/tempted Eve...and Adam chose to disobey the  
Word of God

sin entered God's perfect creation

sin is destructive...individuals, families, nations

so...v5a...to destroy the works of the destroyer

John 10:7-11

Heb 2:14-15

v9 whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin:  
 whosoever  
 a completely wide-open invitation  
 born of God  
 regenerated  
 Eph 2:4-10  
 John 3:3-8                      born of the Spirit of God  
 2 Cor 5:17                      a new creature in Christ  
 doth not commit sin

- lives in...
- abides in...
- stays in...
- dwells in...
- continue in...
- obeys...
- agrees with

Rom 6:23

His seed remaineth in him and he cannot sin because he is born of God:  
 is...continuous present tense...an established and finished truth

Jesus is our propitiation...our substitute  
 We are hid in Him...He dwells in us  
 Therefore...

- Spotless cannot abide with spots
- Life cannot abide in death
- Light cannot abide in darkness
- Love cannot abide in hate/self-centeredness

Our life is God...Who is Life...the Source of life  
 Our light is God...Who is Light...and there is no darkness in Him  
 We are showered with love by God...Who is love

How do I know this is true? By faith in the Word of God (v2)...authored by the God who  
 sees the end and the beginning

Matter of perspective in time – God’s vs mine  
 At this moment in time...my perspective...Phil 1:6 is occurring...  
 the process of being conformed into the image of Jesus Christ  
 But God’s perspective is like Michelangelo’s and presented a huge granite stone...  
 he saw David and chipped all the pieces away that did not look like David  
 I am the granite stone...God sees the Son of David in me...and is in the present time  
 chipping away the pieces that do not look like Jesus Christ

My proper response:

- flee fornication (1 Thes 4:1-9...physical...spiritual)
- flee idols (1 John 5:21)

**Conclusion:**

if Jesus has saved me from the penalty of sin by grace thru faith...and since I do not continue in sin and cannot continue in sin...how do I lose my salvation?

But at the end of the day, the question is not, "Do you know you are saved?"  
It is, "Do you know how much God loves you?"

How much does God love you?  
Ps 139:17-18

The vials  
50,000...14 hours

"Do you know how much God loves you?"  
What does that do to you?  
What does that lead you to do?"

Do you know that you are being continually showered in God's love?



v10 children of God...children of the devil:  
how to tell the difference – examine the fruit

1. righteousness...that which is pleasing to God

v7

the Son **is**...we are sons hid **in** Him...therefore, we **are**  
Jesus Christ is righteous...so we are...so we do  
NOT we do righteousness...so we are (Is 64:6)

NOT...“Righteous is as Righteous does.”

Works based salvation

(centered in my performance, my flesh):

BUT...“Righteous does as Righteous is.”

Spirit-led, salvation by grace thru faith:

2. love for others

loving our brother as God loves us –

selflessly, sacrificially, unconditionally, continually

loving your brother is God-like...not loving your brother is devil-like

Ch 2:9-11

Ch 4:20-21

the devil cannot

- do righteousness...cannot do that which is pleasing to God
- love others with God’s love

...nor can the children of the devil

if you do righteousness and if you love with God’s love, you cannot be a child of the devil

these things are all connected...starting with

- love of God (v1)
- children of God (v2, 9)
- purity (v3)
- abiding in Jesus Christ (v6)
- does not sin...cannot sin (v6, 9)
- righteousness...is righteous (v7)
- does righteousness (v10)
- and ending with...love your brother (v10)...God does (back up to the top)

all the “connections” in v10 are made by love

v11 message...from the beginning...love one another:  
the message the devil disagreed with from the beginning (v8) –  
“Love Me.  
Walk with Me.  
Fellowship/Agree with Me.  
Love your neighbor as yourself.  
Love each other as I have loved you.”

That messages is spelled out in the Law of Moses

- Commandments 1-4: our relationship with God
- Commandments 5-10: our relationship with each other

However...we cannot keep the Law of Moses

- a) We inherited a sinful nature totally contrary to the Law of Moses
- b) it is impossible (Righteous is as Righteous does)  
SoM (i.e. Matt 5:21-22, 27-28)  
Rom 7:14 (Law is spiritual but I am carnal, sold under sin)  
James 2:10 (...if offend in one point, guilt of all)
- c) ...which is the point  
Matt 19:25-26 (Who then can be saved? With men this is impossible but with God all things are possible)  
Gal 3:24-26
- d) Jesus came and fulfilled the Law of Moses for us  
Rom 10:4...Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believes  
Because He loved us...  
so we could walk with Him...  
and have fellowship with Him based on agreement

Now, we called to a HIGHER Law...the Law of Love

- a) Love your neighbor as yourself  
Matt 22:36-40  
Rom 13:8-10
- b) Love each other as He has loved us – sacrificially, selflessly, unconditionally  
1 Cor 8...starting with v1 and ending with v9-13

we love one another by denying ourselves...  
even to the point of avoiding all appearances of evil...  
so another does not stumble and get hurt

in and of ourselves, this love is impossible...because it is a supernatural love...God’s love  
the only way we can live by the Law of Love is with the power of  
the Holy Spirit...the Spirit of Christ...the Spirit of God

an absurd example...because we do not, nor have ever had, the money to do this.

But work with me here...

I want to buy a new, tricked out Cadillac Escalade...\$60K...\$1000 per month

Should I buy it?

1. Pray: "Let us reason together..."
2. Can we afford it? Is this good stewardship of the Lord's resources?
  - No – do not buy
  - Yes – proceed
3. Will it become an idol? (flee idolatry...flee fornication)
  - Yes – I will worship that very cool vehicle...do not buy
  - No – I know it is just a machine that will break, nor does it save me or bring me joy and contentment...proceed
4. Will I stumble a brother?
  - Yes! I mean, what would you think...
    - a) "I covet the Pastor's car!"
    - b) "Man, it sure pays to be in the ministry! Maybe this 'Heath & Wealth' stuff I see on TV is true..."
    - c) "If I had that car payment, I would not have to struggle to feed and clothe my family."
  - DO NOT BUY IT

An even more absurd example - \$3M diamond necklace

(211 total carats, center stone of 22 carats)

What should I do with the money?

1. Worst: spend it on myself...causing others to sin
2. Better: burn it
3. Best: be a faithful steward...invest in the kingdom of God

Luke 18:25-30, Matt 6:19-21, 24

Feed the hungry

Clothe the unclothed

Care for the widows and the orphans

Invest in a ministry getting the Word out to a lost and dying world

That is the Law of Love...denying ourselves for the benefit of another

the Word of God is a Love Letter...

the Gospel is a message of Love...

the commandment of Jesus is Love

Love is proven by obedience...

Obedience is a step of faith...

The just shall live by faith

v12 Not as Cain:

examine the fruit to identify the seed  
the seed of the devil did not love...but butchered...his brother, the seed of God

because he was devil-like, loving himself...  
and his brother was God-like, loving God and others as God loved him  
because he was disobedient and in disagreement...  
and his brother was obedient and in agreement with God  
because he was unjust and unholy...  
and his brother was just and holy

Cain believed a counterfeit “gospel”...the gospel of self  
“me, me, me”  
“mine, mine, mine”

v13 Marvel not...the world hate you:

the believer’s “promised possessions”:

- the love of God
- the hate of the world

By grace thru faith, we have been snatched out of the world and are being conformed into  
the image of Jesus Christ...as we

- deny ourselves
- love others selflessly

We are new creatures...we are different...Jesus Christ has changed us

- we are the light of the world...light cannot be camouflaged with darkness
- we have been given eternal life...eternal life cannot hang out with death
- His love indwells us...selfless love cannot co-exist with selfish love

so do not be surprised by that which is only logical

God loves selflessly...He loves me and you...

and in return, with His love, we love God and one another

The world loves selfishly...it detests God and Jesus Christ and you and me

Biblical Christianity is not a popularity contest...we are aliens!

The appointed walk of the true believer is against the flow...counter-culture

We all must be willing to stand completely alone...with Jesus Christ

Matt 10:32-33

v14 we have passed from death unto life...love the brethren:  
“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that hears my word, and believes on him that sent me, has everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”  
John 5:24

With this verse, we KNOW we have passed from death to life...

- that our faith in Jesus Christ is genuine...
- that we are saved by grace thru faith in Jesus Christ...

when we deny ourselves and love our brother selflessly

and the converse is equally true

if we do not deny ourselves and love others selflessly...

then our faith in Jesus Christ is not genuine...

and we remain in death

proof is in the pudding...and denial of self and selfless love for others is the pudding

v15 whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer:  
remember, God considers the spirit of the Law, not the letter of the Law  
Matt 5:21-22 with Ex 20:13

if you detest your brother/sister...

- slandering him/her
- attacking him/her (physically, verbally, even in your thoughts)
- gossiping about him/her
- defrauding him/her
- deceiving him/her

then

- you have murdered your brother...
- the love of God is not governing your life...
- Jesus is not sitting on the throne of your heart...
- you are not denying yourself and following Jesus...

Instead

- “self” is on the throne of your heart...
- pride governs your life...
- you are following the devil just as Cain did

v16 perceive we the love of God:  
the Love of God is the denial of self for the benefit of another

We know the love of God because He SHOWED us to the n<sup>th</sup> degree that He loves us

- He set aside His glory
- made Himself of no reputation
- took on the form of a servant
- made in our likeness, humbled Himself
- and was obedient unto death on the Cross

and He demonstrated selfless, self-denying, sacrificial love for us...  
when we were yet His enemies!

Rom 5:8

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

John 15:12-13

We ought to lay down our lives for the brethren:

Therefore, how should we respond to such love?

- Return it and share it with others
- Deny ourselves for Jesus Christ and for the benefit of our brother
- Humble ourselves
- Be gracious and kind
- Be forgiving
- Be peaceable with others rather than striving against them

Because God loves us this way...[Rom 12:1-2](#)

pride/arrogance...selfishness...hating our brother...

- is not reasonable
- is a stench to the God that loves us He does

v17 but whoso hath...seeth...shutteth...how dwelleth:

God's love is observant and active and compassionate, not dull and passive and apathetic  
James 2:14-17

just as faith without works is dead, love without action is dead

God's love

- is giving, not receiving
- is sacrificial, not convenient
- is selfless, not selfish...and
- reigns in a soft heart, not a hard heart

v18 My little children:

with observant and active and compassionate love overflowing toward us,  
God tells us to...

let us not love in word...but in deed and in truth:

love is not

- made apparent by the tongue, but by the feet and hands...
- what is said but what is done  
words are cheap, actions reveal the heart

hid in Christ and in fellowship with God the Father and God the Son, we are called to love  
as God loves

- by our actions
- according to the Word of God (John 17:17)
- as led by the Spirit of God (1 John 5:6-7)

this requires us to yield ourselves to God and our members as instruments of righteousness  
unto God (Rom 6:13)

v19 we know...and shall assure:

when our actions...including the movement of our tongues...are governed by the love of  
God, we KNOW we walk in The Truth...

Can two walk together except they be agreed?

Amos 3:3

this is assurance of salvation

fellowship...agreement...in

- truth...and
- selfless love...

proven by obedience

v20-21 if our hearts condemn us...not:

if our thoughts and feelings (emotions) betray us by causing us to doubt

“I don’t think God loves me.”

“I don’t feel lovely, I don’t feel God loves me. He can’t possibly...”

God is greater than our emotions and our doubts

we must let the Word of God and the love of God govern our words and our actions...

we must not be governed by our emotions

v22 whatsoever we ask...because we keep...and do:

when

- we are in fellowship with God...

- our hearts agree with His...

- we love others as He loves us...

- our lives are governed by His love and His Word

then whatever we “beg for, crave, desire”...we will receive from Him...

because we are not asking amiss...in the lusts of our flesh

“Delight yourself also in the Lord...and He shall give you the desires of your heart.” (Ps 37:4)

“If you abide in me and My words in you, you shall ask what you will and it shall be done unto you.” (John 15:7)

“Ask, and it shall be given you. Seek and you shall find. Knock and it shall be opened unto you.” (Matt 7:7)

asking requires faith...faith pleases God (Heb 11:6)

only when we ask do we grasp God’s desire to give



v23 this is His commandment:

2 very simple requirements to please the One Who loves you so much

1. put our faith in the character and authority of His Son Jesus Christ (John 6:29)
2. love one another...selflessly (John 13-16)

the Word of God is a Love Letter...

the Gospel is a message of Love...

the commandment of Jesus is Love

Love is proven by obedience...

Obedience is a step of faith...

The just shall live by faith

Faith and love are inseparable

- faith is God-like...selfless love is God-like
- unbelief is devil-like...selfish love is devil-like

are you like

- Abel...or Cain?
- God...or the devil?

v24 he that keepeth...dwelleth:

love is demonstrated by obedience...no love is demonstrated by defiance

obedience/agreement is the basis for fellowship with God

hereby we know that he abideth:

As we obey the Word of God by faith...

And choose our words and actions to be governed by the Love of God...

the Holy Spirit, by Whom we are sealed until the day of redemption, testifies that

- the Father has given us to the Son...
- we are in Him and He is in us...
- we are in unity with God

**Rom 8:2-9, 14-16**

v2 the Law of Love frees us from the Law of Moses, which reveals sin/self

v3 John 1:17

v4 walk in God's love

v6 by faith. God's love transforms death to life, strife to peace

v8 please God by faith and love

v9 the Spirit, the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ...

indwells, seals, testifies of son-ship

## 1 John Chapter 4

John's Statement of Faith continues

v1 Beloved:  
those who are showered in God's agape, selfless love  
(will be spoken 3 times in Ch 4)

believe not every spirit, but try the spirits:

“Don't believe everything you hear.

Don't believe every person who knocks on your front door and wants to talk about God.

Don't believe everything you see and hear on Christian TV.

Don't believe everything you hear on Christian radio.

Don't believe everything you hear in a church building.

Don't believe that every book in a Christian book store is a good book to read.

Don't believe that every person who says he is a Christian actually is one.”

Instead...

believe the Word of God

John 17:17

and test all things against the perfect Word

1 Thes 5:21

Acts 17:11

Because many false prophets are gone out:

because the number and the “coverage” of imposters and deceivers is staggering!

like Jesus, Paul, Peter, and James, John warns of false teachers

This happened almost immediately after the birth of the church and continues in full force  
to this day

Gal 1:6-9

We know the lie because we know the truth

v2-3 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God:  
one of the 3 most important books in the Bible...for in it God declares Who Jesus Christ is

this is the truth (the purpose for the Gospel of John is [John 20:30-31](#)):

- [John 1:1-4, 14, 17, 29](#) Word, Lamb of God
- [John 3:30](#) Lord
- [John 6:35](#) Bread of Life
- [John 8:12](#) Light of the world
- [John 8:58](#) Voice in the burning bush...God
- [John 10:11](#) Good Shepherd
- [John 11:25-26](#) Resurrection and Life
- [John 14:6](#) THE Way, Truth, Life
- Jesus Christ is God Almighty come in the flesh

This is NOT the truth:

- Jesus is Michael the Archangel
- Jesus is the brother of Lucifer
- Jesus is a good man...good teacher...prophet

Matt 16:15-18 is the spiritual litmus test

...a proclamation of the incarnation of God Himself into human form

common denominators of spirits NOT of God (JWs, Mormans, Islam, Buddhism...)

1. deny the deity of Jesus Christ
2. claim to have another revelation

v4 little children:  
darlings

have overcome them:

[Ch 5:4-5](#)

fear not the false prophets...the children of the devil...because you have the victory...

you are more than conquerors against all opposition by faith in

- Jesus Christ
- the Son of God
- God the Son
- The Word become flesh...etc in v2-3...
- Creator

greater is he who is in us than he who is in the world:

the One True and Living God vs the god of this world...no contest!

- Their armies (2 K 6:16-17) fear not, they with us are more than with them
- Them (Matt 28:18...leaving NO power for man or satan)  
Creator is greater than creature

v5-6 they are of the world...we are of God:  
difference – words of the world vs Word of God (“my language” vs foolishness)

John 8:23-24, 31-32, 42-47

1 Cor 1:18-30

Ch 3:13

The most difficult person to witness to is a religious person...one who

- is deceived by god of this world (2 Cor 4:3-4)
- has believed a lie, a false premise, and “hears” thru that

Spiritual pride is the most blinding and deafening

See the links in the chain...

1. false prophets (v1)
2. antichrist (v3)
3. of the world (v5)
4. spirit of error (v6)

Only we who are of God...that confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh...know both

- spirit of truth
- spirit of error

they who are of the world know only the spirit of error...

because they deny the spirit of truth

v7-8 now let's look at this Statement of Faith and the assurance of salvation thru Love

Beloved...love is of God:

proof that we are of God – we are vessels of God's selfless love  
 (“agape” is the Gr word in every instance in this letter)

love is God-like, NOT devil-like

the devil cannot love...does not love  
if we love one another, we are of God

born of God:

to be of God means to

1. be born of God

John 1:12-13

John 3:3-8

2. know God

He IS Love...Life...Light

As revealed in

- His creation
- His Word
- His Son

v9-10 was manifested the love of God toward us:

proof that God is love...proof that God loves us...is the Cross and the empty Tomb

Eph 2:1-5

We were born spiritually dead...

God is spirit and must be worshipped in spirit and in truth...

an impossible problem for man

We needed our rebellion and sin to be covered...atoned for...removed

We needed His life to overcome our death

And He did these things BEFORE we loved Him...He "went first"

Because God is love, He initiated the work of

- transformation
- purification
- restoration...and
- reconciliation

of the fallen creature made in His image

v11 Beloved, if God so loved us:

to "those who are showered in God's selfless, sacrificial love"...

since

- God is love
- God so loved us as to send His only Begotten to be our substitute in death
- we believe what God said is true and, thus are
  - born of God and
  - know God...

our proper, logical, and reasonable response is to

- freely give that which we have freely received
- do unto others as God has done unto us
- love one another as God loves us...selflessly, sacrificially
- to be joyful, peaceful, longsuffering, gentle, good, faithful, meek, moderate

Selfishness is

- illogical and unreasonable...
- unGod-like...and
- unrighteous

v12 If we love one another...His love is perfected in us:  
not since Gen 3 has God walked in the cool of the day with man  
Is 59:1-2

But God Who is love and so loved the world that He sent His only Begotten into the world,

- lives in those who are born of God...and
- is seen with eyes of faith...

if we love one another

“He that sees Me sees Him that sent Me.” (John 12:45)...and we reflect Jesus

“By this all men shall know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another.” (John 13:35)

Thus, the love of God is completed...

initiated by God...when it is received, returned, and shared by man

If we do not love, we do not know God...and His is an unrequited love, incomplete

If the world cannot see our love (love is action, not words), they cannot see God...and they remain incomplete, spiritually dead and separated by their sins

“central” to the perfection of God’s love is

- God dwelling in us in this foul world
- us loving others as God loves us

v13 Hereby we know:

How do we know He dwells in us?

Because He has

1. Given us His Spirit...His (eternal) Life
2. told us He is dwelling in us...God the Holy Spirit testifies that
  - He has indwelt and sealed us (Eph 1:13-14, Eph 4:30)
  - We are the Temple of God (1 Cor 6:19-20)

By faith...by which we overcome the devil and the children of the devil...we KNOW

v14 we have seen and do testify:

in response, we testify of the truth that God the Father sent His Son, the Savior of the world...just as He said He would

Is 7:14

Is 9:6

Is 45:20-23

Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)

(Paul, a very religious man radically converted by grace thru faith)

v15 Whosoever shall confess...God dwells in him and he in God:  
the perfection of God's love requires the indwelling of God in man, who was created in the  
image of God

How do we know He does?

With a Statement of Faith...by confessing our agreement that Jesus Christ is

- the Son of God...
- God the Son...

...not Michael the Archangel...not Lucifer's brother...not just a good man

Rom 10:9-13

v16 the love God has to us. God is love:  
God the Son said

"...you seek Me. Let these go their way." (John 18:8)

"Forgive them Father for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)

"It is finished." (John 19:30)

words of pure, selfless, sacrificial love for the unlovely

God is love...God and love are inseparable...an indivisible One

He that dwells in love dwells in God and God in him:

the perfection of God's love requires the indwelling of God in man, who was created in the  
image of God

How do we know He does?

By living in the love of God...selfless, sacrificial love for the benefit of another

v17 Herein is our love made perfect...boldness in the day of judgment:  
our love is complete in the assurance that we are saved from death and hell...  
because John 17:20-26

We know beyond the shadow of a doubt...for there is no darkness in light...that

- our sins have been judged...on the Cross, where God's love for us was proven
- the blood of the Lamb of God has cleansed us of all unrighteousness
- by grace thru faith, we are new creatures in Christ, transformed and conformed  
by His love into the image of Jesus Christ
- we are whole living persons...3D
- we have been purchased
- we have been given eternal life (Rom 6:23)

God is love...God indwells us and we in Him...His love is perfected in us...  
therefore in God's love is certain salvation.

v18 no fear in love but perfect love casteth out fear...fear hath torment:  
in God's love there is no doubt, no fear

fear (a corrupted faith) and doubt (not knowing) torment man...  
especially...not knowing if you are saved is torment!

for those of us perfected in God's love, ours is a pure faith...  
and we KNOW we are saved by Jesus Christ

- **God** the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are inseparable...  
an indivisible one  
Deut 6:4...John 10:30  
“united”  
“likeness, sameness in nature and essence”
- **God** and love are inseparable...  
an indivisible one (v16)
- Faith (**ours**) and love (God's) are inseparable...  
an indivisible one (Ch 3:14-18, v20)
- With God's love being the **bond** of perfection (Col 3:12-14)...  
God and the man born of God are inseparable...  
an indivisible one (Acts 17:24-28)

[ REPEAT ] we know we are saved!

to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus, which has  
delivered us from the wrath to come. (1 Thes 1:10)

For God has not appointed us unto wrath, but to obtain (“preservation”) salvation by our  
Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thes 5:9)

Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through  
Him. (Rom 5:9)

fear and love are mutually exclusive  
sin and Jesus Christ are mutually exclusive (Ch 3:5)  
sin and us are mutually exclusive (Ch 3:9)...

Fear not! Doubt not!  
KNOW that you are saved!



v19 We love Him because He first loved us:  
because God loves us, we love Him

we do not love Him because He condemned us...we condemned ourselves  
John 3:17-18

rather, by grace, He made possible the lifting of our condemnation (Rom 8:1)...  
by an act of pure, selfless, sacrificial love for the unlovely...(Rom 5:8)  
and we respond by returning and sharing that love

God is always the initiator, man never is.  
Man must respond to God...God never responds to man.  
No man will be able to boast before the Lord...  
man's performance will never outshine God's performance

v20-21 I love God but hateth his brother is a liar:  
this is an oxymoron...contradictory statements  
they both cannot be true

which is true?

- "I love God" is spoken...words are cheap
  - hate his brother...actions that proclaim the facts
- so he is a liar when he says he loves God when in fact he does not

how can he love God whom he has not seen?:

"...blessed are they that have not seen and have believed." (John 20:29)

and that's the truth!

## 1 John Chapter 5

v1 Whosoever believeth...is born of God:  
whosoever...anybody who will...the opportunity is available to every man  
trusts in...places their faith in (more than intellectual consent)...does the work of God  
(John 6:29)  
that Jesus is the Messiah/Savior  
is regenerated in the Spirit...born-again...3D...a new creature in Christ

“Of His own will begat He us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of  
firstfruits of his creatures.” (James 1:18)

“He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received  
Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, to them that  
believe on His name; which were born, not of blood nor of the will of the  
flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:11-13)

We have seen that

- God is light (Ch 1:5)...
- God is love (Ch 4:8)...now
- God is life

and with God’s love being the bond of perfection, God and the man born of God  
are inseparable...an indivisible One

every one that loveth:

if you love God, you will love the children of God...because God does

the family of God is a “blended” family

- We once were not His – dysfunctional, cracked pots
- we were children of disobedience...children of the devil
- until God touched us, changed us, and adopted us

for those in a blended family, do you want to love your husband/wife?

Love his/her children...just as God loved you into His family

v2-3 know we love the children of God:  
if you love God, you love His children...  
...and if you love God's children, you love God

and the flip side is also true (don't love...attack)

we do love each other (selflessly, not selfishly) when

1. we love God
2. we obey God

because the proof of love is obedience...love is action

you know your kids love you when they lovingly obey you...so...  
to love God is to obey His Commandments.

God's commandments:

- Love me...return My love for you
- Love your neighbor as yourself...share My love for you
- Love each other as I have loved you...share My love for you

These commandments are not heavy...

Matt 11:28-30

In fact, we keep His commandments when we surrender, not when we strive

v4 born of God overcometh the world...victory...our faith:  
we who are in the world...but not of the world and hated by the world...overcome the  
world by faith

we have victory thru surrender...

of our will for God's...  
of our life for God's

by faith in the Son of God

Matt 10:38-39

Rom 10:17...Heb 11:1

F = H + B + O + W

Rom 4:19-22

- Abraham and Sarah having their own son
- Jonathan and his armorbearer (1 Sam 14:6)

By faith...we overcome evil with good (Rom 12:21)

- Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (aka Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednigo)  
(Dan 3:14-30)
- Daniel (Dan 6:16-28)

v5      overcometh...believeth that Jesus is the Son of God:

    this is well-placed faith

Ps 2:7, 12

    “In the world you shall of tribulation, but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

    placed anywhere else...

        ourselves...

        our money/possessions...

        another person...

    and faith is misplaced

v6a     by water and blood:

    God took on a human body (Ch 4:2)...

        the Creator entered His creation, in the meekest of ways...

        born of water and blood

    on the Cross His side was pierced...and in His death His Bride was given life...

        born of water and blood

    Why did God take on human form...why was His side pierced?

        • to purify us (as with water) and

        • to justify us (by His blood)

    because our sin had to be paid for and the stain of sin had to be washed off

Eph 5:25-27

Acts 20:28

Titus 3:5-7

    the church, which He has purchased with His blood

v6b-7   Spirit beareth witness...Spirit is truth...three are one:

    with John 14:6 in mind...God is an indivisible One

    God...the indivisible One of Father, the son, and the Holy Spirit (Deut 6:4)...bears witness of

        • Who Jesus is

        • what Jesus has done

v8      these three agree in one:

    in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established

v9-10 if we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater:

“Do you believe what the Bible says?”

“No”

“Have you read it? How long did you study it before you arrived at that conclusion?”

“No. I have never read it.”

“Your faith is greater than mine.

Your faith is a blind faith...mine can see clearly now.

Your faith is irrational...the Christian faith is a profoundly rational faith.”

the witness of men is

- all roads lead to God...there are many ways to heaven
- if you are good and sincere, God will accept you

the witness of God is that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and

- you MUST be born-again to enter into the kingdom of God
- Jesus Christ is the ONLY Way to the Father (John 14:6)
- the just shall live by faith (Hab 2:4)

every man believes either the witness of men or the witness of God...

to believe the witness of men is to call God a liar...

but God is truth (v6b-7) and it is impossible for God to lie (Num 23:19)...

so to believe the witness of men is to believe a lie

the witness of God...Who is truth (v6b-7)...is greater than the witness of men...

Are you going to believe

- the lesser...or the greater?
- a lie...or the Truth?

v11-12 life is in His Son:

John 3:16

John 11:25-26

this could not be more concise or more clear

life is binary: yes or no, on or off

life is not “maybe” or partial...it’s all or nothing

Life is Jesus Christ. Period.

- v13 these things have I written unto you...that ye may know:  
this letter was written to believers...those that have
- heard and agreed with the Word of God
  - put their faith in Jesus Christ to save them from death and hell

Structurally, notice the “sandwiches”

1. believe / know / believe  
(we know because we believe)
2. name of Son of God / eternal life / name of Son of God  
(we have eternal life because of Jesus)

this is written so we would

- Know beyond a shadow of a doubt that we are saved
- Trust Jesus completely...with everything...at all times
- Be sold-out, not a hold-out
- Be on-fire, not wishy-washy

1 Peter 1:2-5

John 13:1

[A.] “The Believer’s Conditional Security”:

akin to a dad and his toddler who is learning how to walk  
every time the child stumbles and falls, the dad screams at him, “You are going to  
hell! You are defiled and unworthy!”  
but when the child gets back on his feet...with no help from dad...dad says, “I love  
you, son. Walk with me and be perfect and I will be your dad.”

How many times thru such a cycle before the child:

- stays down
- hates his dad
- runs away...as far as he can, as soon as he can

[B.] or consider this cycle:

- Born again...saved by grace thru faith
- Sin...and die (undoing what God had done)
- Repent...and born-again again
- Sin...and die
- Repent...and born-again again

is “born-again” into eternal life...or is it an endless cycle of life and death and life?

This cycle breeds fear and doubt...torment

but there is no fear in love and perfect love casts out fear

[C.] or consider this scenario: saved by grace but stay saved by works  
You have been given a brilliant white linen outfit and entrance to the Marriage  
Feast of the Lamb  
But on the way you trip and fall, staining the beautiful garment with  
mud, motor oil, and blood (your own)  
Will you be able to take the garment to the “self-help” dry cleaners?  
...there aren't any  
Will you be able to remove the stains with a filthy, bloody, acid-soaked rag in your  
garage (Is 64:6)?  
How can the garment be restored/kept brilliant white?  
Only By Grace

Conditional Security is a head-spinning free fall of chaos, fear, and doubt  
And it makes God look capricious...unstable...not all-powerful  
But...every good and perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father  
of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. (James 1:17)

Grace does not inspire a heart looking for license and loopholes...  
grace inspires a heart looking for love and fellowship

v14-15 this is the confidence...ask...hear us:  
we can be assured that if we ask anything ACCORDING TO HIS WILL...  
and not according to our will...  
that He hears us and answers our prayers

Prayer is not about getting our will done in heaven...  
it is about God getting His will done on earth...  
Prayer is "not my will but Yours be done."

Prayer starts in the heart of God...and every such prayer gets answered!  
And answered exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think...

v16-17 a sin not unto death:

for the believer fallen in sin...pray for repentance...and get involved! (Gal 6:1-2)  
for the unbeliever...pray the blinders of the devil be lifted so he/she can make a rational  
choice regarding Jesus Christ

Jesus paid for all sins with His blood...except for

- unbelief...
- blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, Who was sent to witness of Jesus Christ...
- the unpardonable sin

John 16:8-9

To reject the witness of God the Holy Spirit that God the Son died to take away your sins  
is to

- die in your sins...and
- remain in your condemnation (John 3:17-19)

the blood of Jesus covers every sin but the sin of unbelief.

If you do not believe, God can do nothing more for you than what He has already done.

And God will not violate the free will given to you...

He makes the way home, He testifies of The Way...you must decide

Note: this is the last time “sin” appears in the Bible

v18 whoever is born of God sinneth not:

Ch 3:9

God is an indivisible One

“sin” and “Jesus Christ are mutually exclusive

God and man born of God are an indivisible One

“sin” and “man born of God” are mutually exclusive

seeing the end, the beginning, and the middle all at once, the One outside of time sees His  
finished work right now...God looks at us and sees His Son!

he that is begotten of God keepeth himself:

in Greek NT, “himself” is either G1438 (“him”) or G848 (“self”)...roughly 50/50 split

in context, then, which makes more sense

1. he that is begotten of God (man) keeps himself and the devil cannot touch him  
(saved by works)
2. He that is begotten of God (Jesus Christ) keeps him (man) and the devil cannot  
touch him  
(saved by grace thru faith)

I think #2

If you are in Jesus Christ, you are part of an indivisible One...you are saved!

You can KNOW it!



v19 we know that we are of God:

we KNOW that

1. we are of God (Ch 4:7)
  - born of God
  - know God
2. the world lies in wickedness
  - God is truth (v6b-7)
  - God and the world are diametrically opposed
  - God is light and there is no darkness in Him

There are 2 kingdoms...every man is a citizen of one of them

- Light or darkness
- Selfless Love or love of self
- Life or death

As for me...Col 1:12-15

v20 we know that the Son of God is come:

a true witness (Ch 4:2-3)

this is the true God, and eternal life:

Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and The Life (John 14:6)

Life is in Jesus Christ (v11)

Life is the true God (v20)

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God

...not Michael the Archangel

...not Lucifer's brother

“In Him dwells ALL the FULNESS of the Godhead BODILY.” (Col 2:9)

“Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior  
Jesus Christ...” (Titus 2:13)

Therefore...

v21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols:

“Darlings...

- be holy...faithful...pure
- be watchful for and guard against false gods made in man's image
- seek The True God who created man in His image.”

## **1 John Summary**

What do we KNOW?

- That we know Jesus Christ ...if we obey His commandment to love one another (2:3)
- That we are IN Jesus Christ (2:5)
- That we shall be like Jesus Christ when He returns (3:2)
- That Jesus Christ came to take away our sins (3:5)
- That we have passed from death to life (3:14)
- That we are of the Truth (3:19)
- That Jesus Christ abides in us (3:24)
- How to test the spirits (4:1-3)...JW and Mormons at your front door
- That we abide in God (4:13)
- That we HAVE eternal life (5:13)
- That God hears us (5:15)
- That we are of God (5:19)

God is

- Light
- Love
- Life

In John's Statement of Faith, we have the assurance of salvation through

1. Fellowship...complete oneness (1:1 – 2:17)
2. Truth (2:18 – 4:6)
3. Love (4:7 – 5:5)
4. Spirit (5:6-21)