

1st John

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August, 2006

Chapter 1

- 1:1** “That which” vs. “He who”
First hand account
- 1:2** Jesus — flesh and blood
Jesus — eternal
- 1:3** No explanation => proclamation
Why — fellowship
1 Corinthians 1:9 called by God
Galatians 2:9 Spills over to others
Philippians 1:5 Work partnership
Example Acts 2:42-47
- 1:4** Joy complete
A very glad feeling
Fulfilled in relationship
John 15:11 Trust me enough to obey
John 16:24 Trust me enough to ask
Example Acts 16:34 joyful jailer
- 1:5** God is light and
there is no darkness in Him
Jesus’s Jewish background
Exodus 34:14 Jealousy / aspect of love
Deuteronomy 6:5 “Love me” says God
Combined with experience at the cross
Luke 23:24 Focus not on self
Asking Father to forgive
- 1:6** Fellowship — like-mindedness
Amos 3:3 Do two walk together ...?
- 1:7** As He is in the light
Yes, personal holiness, but expressed in
focus on others, not as rules as in Matthew
chapters 5-7, but out of the overflow of godly
fellowship — same thing restated — then the
blood truly applies.
- 1:8** Self-delusions!
If not guilty of anything — try pride
- 1:9** Will He forgive —
what is God’s attitude toward sin?
Exodus 33:19 His name (nature)
Isaiah 1:18-19 We can talk it over
Jeremiah 31:34 He will forgive
When we fail to confess we deny the above

- 1:10** Old heresies — new formats!
“Probably more sick than sinful”
“Treated badly as a child”
We are all defective
We all need Grace
James 4:6-10 Resists the proud /
Grace to the humble
Genesis 20:1-6 I have kept you from
sinning

Chapter 2

- 2:1** “Dear children” — gentle authority
“Not sin” continues the idea that
we are morally responsible —
must have a vector away from sin
- 2:2** ATONING SACRIFICE
Christians only, or whole world?
1st Timothy 2:3 Wants the whole world
Matthew 28:18 Church is responsible
Matthew 7:21-23 Some miss the point
- 2:3** Know the rules — follow the rules
vs. Know Jesus — follow Jesus
(personal, experiential & practical)
and then with obedience, easily
complying to commands, following
“in dependent child relationship”
(How does this happen?
Dramatically? Slowly? Which?)
- 2:4-5** Bottom line — how am I living?
Saved — not consistent with a
sinful life
- 2:6** “Walk as Jesus did”
What are the major components of
His walk?
Faith
Love / forgiveness
Commitment / obedience
- 2:7-8** Old testament ⇔ Love
New testament ⇔ Love plus the
incredible sacrifice of the Cross —
it’s the implication of the cross to
our everyday lives

2:9-11 God loves each and every one
When we disdain / hold on to unforgiveness, it's to someone He loves — how do we maintain fellowship?

2:12-14 Style of thinking —
Church is a Family

Title	Key Word	Emphasis	Spiritual Family Role
Dear children	Sins forgiven	Have known Him	New converts
Fathers	Have known Him	From the beginning	Heads of family, elders, pastors
Young men	Have overcome	Strong living word	Workers, volunteers, deacons

2:15 Loving world ≠ Loving Father
World offers:

- Carnal satisfaction
- Ownership of things
- Ego shots — honors and approval

2:18 Last hour (epistle) — 80 A.D.
Jerusalem destruction 70 A.D.
Matthew 24:2 – “... not one stone left here upon another”
Mark 13:32-37 Jesus recommends “Be ready”
If Armageddon was tomorrow?

2:20 An anointing — the practical reality of John 16:5-13
“... guide you into all truth” — not just doctrinal truth, but all truth

2:23 Denying Christ is a dead-end street

2:25 Our promise is eternal life

Chapter 3

3:1 Children have parents' DNA
Highest privilege of our salvation
See also John 1:12 —
How long do we remain as a child of God once we become one — what does it take?
A gift without comparison and paid for by the blood of Jesus

It says “behold” — not descriptive
Just think about what this means

3:2 Here's what it takes
Now are we the sons of God
Those begotten by God
and who also work righteousness
Ephesians 2:8-10 Work after salvation
Matthew 13:3-8,18-23 Productivity is associated only with seed that falls on good soil — what if we are not instantly good soil?

3:3 Our goal is to be as pure as Jesus — acquisition by faith

3:6 On the other hand, being content with continued sin suggests we don't know Him

3:8 Mankind was in bondage to sin and Satan
Jesus came to set the captives free
Why would it seem reasonable not to vector out of continuing sins — one by one?

3:10 Which of us are children of God?
Not a design standard, but a test condition —
1. Am I doing right?
2. Do I love my brother?

3:16 What is love?
Christ laid down His life for us
We ought to do the same for the empty brothers!!!
Love without action is just empty words!!!
Don't you have any pity? Yikes!

3:17 Test procedure for love:
how we manage money —
Prosperous — yes
Tight — no
Get plenty / give plenty

3:19 Test procedure for knowing:
Nobody is perfect, so that's not it
What's our gut reaction?
Love unfelt is not love, it's only word or tongue
The person who feels he loves and deliberately lets it flow into action

is as close as we can get
In the end it's all faith anyway

3:20 Gut reaction — I'm led by the Spirit
and I'm at peace

James 2:18-19 Faith is dynamic

John Love is dynamic

Paul Grace and Faith are dynamic —
Ephesians 2:8-10

3:21 Is Christianity static or dynamic?
What is the root of this dynamic?
Confidence in God!

John 15:4-8 Abiding — intimacy

- Answered prayers
- Obedience

So ...

If we are not loving, obedient, experiencing
answered prayers, etc., then we don't
force ourselves into doing works — we
abide in Him and His word and then it
will all flow together!!!

3:24 (We know that we know)
That intimacy will so illuminate us
that our wills and God's will
become united and we joyfully do
what the Spirit leads us to do

Chapter 4

4:1 Test the spirits?

- Against scriptural standards
(Gal. 1:9) (Deut. 4:2,12:32)
- Inward witness of Spirit
- Who is the person speaking?
Test the person — whom do we
trust? A pastor? Billy Graham?
Ante-Nicean fathers? Who?

4:3 Every spirit that does not
acknowledge Jesus (as we teach)
is not from God

What do we think of New Age, Islam, etc.?

4:4 As we grow close to Christ, our
minds get clarified about false
teaching

4:6 We vs. they
We are from God
If God is in you, you will recognize

that God is in us, and therefore will
listen to us

Anyone can say that, but John is a first-hand
witness

4:7 If you are born of God and actually
(by faith) know Him then love is a
key issue in your life — so let's
express that love toward one
another

4:8 No love ⇒ no Jesus
No Jesus ⇒ no God
No God ⇒ big trouble

4:9 Trouble because our life is in
Jesus and no one else!!!
God demonstrates that love is
dynamic in His sending His Son
into the world.

4:10-12 Has He saved us from Hell?
Do we just take?
Or do we share love?

Galatians 5:22-23 We don't get fruit the
day after we plant the seed

4:16 Which is accurate / better:
God is love
God is an accountant

We are made in His image?

Can we / do we organize ourselves
consistent with our image of God?

4:18 Came close once or twice, but
never thought my dad would shoot
me—how can I fear my heavenly
Father? Luke 11:11-13. Discipline,
yes—Hebrews 12:7.

4:20 20/20 vision—others' faults
see how unworthy of love my
brother is!
Doesn't God see the faults?
Ahab—humbles himself 1 Kings
21:29. God searches for
something good. Is that what we
should do?
(Priest in *Les Miserables*)

Chapter 5

- 5:1** Believe—rely on, trust in,
and adhere to
James 2:19 Demons—shudder
- 5:2** Knowing God
Knowing what God has done
This leads us to love Him and
everything important to Him
(perfectly clear John 15:10)
- 5:4** The world's system of values is
overthrown by the Christian walk in
love
No love ⇔ no converts
- 5:8** Spirit — author / Bible
Water — baptism
Blood — Lord's table
- 5:11-12** These 3 are the testimony that
God gave us eternal life
- 5:13** All of the above comes together in
each life, enabling the individual to
have assurance of salvation —
this is another present-tense
indication — reliance is OK, but
not on past experiences. Reliance
is based on relationship, not
performance.
- Salvation by grace (Ephesians 2:8)
Reliance by relationship (1 John 5:19
and many other 1 John comments)
- 5:14-15** If we (Christians) pray God's heart
we always get "Yes"
How do we discern His heart?
— Scripture
— Inward witness of the Spirit
— Unity / consensus of those
praying about the need
- 5:16** Physical or spiritual death?
— Refusal to repent
— Apostasy
— Maybe unrelenting pride
- 5:17** Sin is sin
But surely not all sin
Leads to death

5:18 Habitual sin
Voluntary or involuntary
e.g. addiction
deliverance / restoration

5:19 The world can't get free of the devil
Can get free of physical illness by
therapy / medication
John 8:32-36

5:20 The Son of God has come, and
continues to be present to us (by
faith), that we may personally and
experientially know God.