

## 1 John 5: 1-21 (New International Version, © 2010)

<sup>1</sup> Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. <sup>2</sup> This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. <sup>3</sup> In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup> for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

<sup>6</sup> This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. <sup>7</sup> For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup> the<sup>[a]</sup> Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. <sup>9</sup> We accept human testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. <sup>10</sup> Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. <sup>11</sup> And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup> Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

<sup>13</sup> I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. <sup>14</sup> This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

<sup>16</sup> If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that you should pray about that. <sup>17</sup> All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.

<sup>18</sup> We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them. <sup>19</sup> We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. <sup>20</sup> We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

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

**Footnote:** [1 John 5:8](#) Late manuscripts of the Vulgate *testify in heaven: the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one. And there are three that testify on earth: the* (not found in any Greek manuscript before the fourteenth century)

## **OASIS: Living Deep: 1 John 5: 1-21**

*Preface: Welcome to the 8<sup>th</sup> of 8 Bible studies in our I John “Living Deep” series. You can access these studies in the Sunday morning OASIS course or on the GC “Sermon” webpage (or via the LIFE Community “resource page”) by the following Monday. These studies work sequentially through I John (and connect to our fall message series but are not sermon-dependent). We hope you will get great transformational benefit.*

**Possible starter question:** In what contexts is it helpful to be confident? Any areas when it is wise not to be overly confident?

**Transitional comment:** John the Apostle writes to building up the early Christians. He wants to help them have deep faith and confidence that translates into high quality relationships and effective living. In this final chapter, John reviews some about bedrock matters that ground their faith and enable them to live with vibrancy and assurance in their challenging context. Let’s see which transfer to our context.

Let’s listen as Chapter 5 is read aloud. Someone who enjoys reading aloud want to read for us?)

*(Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead your study, if you haven’t already prayed.)*

**Read and Overview:** Now take several minutes by yourself to study this passage. Look for repeated words and ideas. Note some of the key contrasts. What seem to be the big idea or major insights?

O What repeated words, ideas and connections did you see? Any key contrasts? (3-5 min.)

**First Section (v. 1-12):**

O In vs. 1-5, what does John tell us about love?

O What does John want us to understand about God’s commands?

I What does it mean that God’s commands aren’t burdensome? If not that, then what are they?

A Give an example or two of how obeying God’s commands can be life-enriching?

O Look at the next paragraph, vs. 6-12. What is this paragraph about?

I Why do you think John writes this paragraph?

*(n.b. 3 fold agreement was emphasized in Deut. 17:6; 19:15 and Hebrew justice)*

**Second Section (v. 13-17):**

O What are some of John’s pastoral concerns or interests in vs. 13-15? About what does John want his readers to be confident?

I What do you learn about prayer from these verses?

A How can we ground our prayers in “his will”? What does that mean for us?

*(n.b. the idea of a certain kind of sin leading to death is likely linked to Jesus teaching about blasphemy in Lk. 12:10; Mk. 3:29 and Mt. 12:31 where the verb tense indicates not a particular sin but rather a sin pattern that becomes continuous)*

O In what ways does the next paragraph (vs. 16-17) illustrate or apply vs. 13-15?

Third Section (v. 18-21):

- O What are the final few insights that John wants to make sure his readers are clear about?
- O Throughout his letter, John has written much about those who are “children of God.” What are some of the benefits and expectations that John mentions?
  - I What type of idols might have tempted John’s first century readers?
  - I What type of idols (or false gods) might we find tempting today?
    - A What helps you keep safe from contemporary idols?

Summary: Just as John wants his readers to be confident about the incarnation of Jesus, John also wants his readers to be assured of their relationship with Jesus now and eternally. The result will be faith-filled, bold, loving and courageous living.

- A What are one or two highlights from I John that you want remember and embrace/

Prayer together: Pray...

- ❖ that the life of Christ, the Holy Spirit, would become more influential in each of our lives.
  - ❖ that we would be able to find fresh, deeper ways to care and love for one another this year.
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Text notes (you can access biblical texts via [www.Biblegateway.com](http://www.Biblegateway.com))

- a. BIG idea: It all starts with faith in Jesus.
- b. Key verse: I John 5: 15 “I write these things...so that you may know that you have eternal life.”
- c. KEY: O = Observation; I = Interpretation; A = Application (or C = Challenge)

Advice to study leaders:

- d. Complement your OIA questions with “process questions” (what else? What more? What do others of you see/think?).
- e. Determine the core questions you’ll ask (know which ones to skip if pressed for time).
- f. Always reword questions in words that are comfortable for you (and, if the question doesn’t make sense to you, then discard it.) You want to “own” each question.
- g. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. How long do you wait? Take your time; don’t rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
- h. Timing/pacing: allocate your time and move forward gently, with a steady pace.
- i. Application: Pace the study to conclude with “difference making” application.
- j. Secondary texts—use other texts very sparingly, even if they are relevant. Otherwise, other texts will push you more into the “teacher role,” rather than that of facilitator. It also can cause some people to feel distracted or de-powered.
- k. If you are utilizing this “on-line” study and not part of the OASIS course, I recommend that you get the 1-volume commentary entitled New Bible Commentary, Revised (21<sup>st</sup> Century Edition, IVP). It is well worth the \$40.