

John's Letter to the Church 1st John Lesson 4

1 John 5:1 ¹ **Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him.**

John now expands the thought to include others who belong to God. Nothing else can be accepted except total commitment to God in every area, and this includes relationships with people. If we have the true love of God in our life, then we will love other people too!

2 **By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.**

Just loving God is not enough! When we love God, then we want to do more and that includes observing God's commandments! It is not seen in the English, but the Greek implies that we "keep on" doing these things. This means that we "keep on" loving God and we "keep on" loving the children of God.

3 **For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.**

The love of God is proven in us by how we keep His commandments. Look at the thought presented in the text. It uses the word "burdensome." This means that keeping the commandments of God is easy for us and not a heavy task. True love for God lightens all the weight of the burdens that are placed on those who love Him.

4-5 **For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?**

Since keeping the commandments of God is not burdensome to the child of God, then overcoming the struggles of this world becomes easy too! We overcome because the heaviness of the world is lifted by the Lord. How does this happen? It happens because of our faith in God. The fruit of our faith in God is love, not only for God, but for His word and His children.

6 **This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood.**

By Jesus coming to earth for us, all the provisions that were necessary to provide salvation were put in place. Jesus came into this world through the breaking of the water in the womb. He was a living breathing human in the flesh with blood. It wasn't that He was just born but that He died and gave His blood for the possibility of our salvation!

⁷And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is the truth.

The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Godhead, has revealed the truth about Jesus because He only speaks truth.

⁸For there are three that bear witness, the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

So in his life, John saw three proofs that Jesus was here to bring about salvation.

- 1 First, the Holy Spirit proclaimed it to John.
- 2 Second, John knew Jesus personally and knew that He was a living human who was born just like everyone else. John knew Jesus' mother. This is the John whom Jesus asked to care for her after His departure.
- 3 Third, John knew that Jesus had died on cross and given His blood for all

mankind. The three proofs were undeniable.

⁹If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for the witness of God is this, that He has borne witness concerning His Son.

We do not just have to believe the "words of man" for the "words of God" are greater than any words that a mere mortal could speak. God is the one who has proclaimed that Jesus is the Savior of the world.

¹⁰The one who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the witness that God has borne concerning His Son.

This is so simple! If we believe in Jesus as the Savior of the world, then we have the witness of God dwelling inside us! In addition, if we do not believe that Jesus is the Savior, then we are proclaiming that God is not truthful! But God is truthful and our testimony as men is miniscule compared to that of God.

¹¹And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

God has said it! Salvation and eternal life only comes through Jesus Christ and no one else!

¹²He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

Do we have salvation and eternal life? The real question is, do we believe in Jesus Christ as the Lord God and Savior?

¹³These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.

Everything that John has said is for the purpose of making sure that we have eternal life. If Jesus Christ is not our Savior, then we do not have eternal life with Him in our future. But that can be changed with a simple commitment on our part to release ourselves into the hands of the Savior!

¹⁴ And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

If we release ourselves to the Lord Jesus, this verse promises that He will be our Savior! If we ask Him, He will hear us and give us eternal life with Him.

¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

The promise goes even further! If we know Jesus, we know that He has given us eternal life with Him, just as He has promised.

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

This is one of the most difficult passages in the scripture. Just what is the "sin leading to death?"

Almost all sins are not mortal sins, but John speaks clearly here of a sin that truly leads "unto death." Just as many crimes then and now bear the death penalty this is a "death-bearing sin" But there is a difference between sinning willfully after full knowledge and sins of ignorance!

But I believe that John has another sin in mind. I believe it is the unpardonable sin spoken of by Jesus!

Mark 3:29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin."

Matthew 12:32 "And whoever shall speak a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever shall speak against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age, or in the age to come.

Luke 12:10 "And everyone who will speak a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him.

The sin that leads to eternal death is the sin of rejecting the calling of the Holy Spirit to accept Jesus as Lord. That is the sin that leads to eternal death and separation from the Lord!

¹⁸ We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him and the evil one does not touch him. ¹⁹ We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in *the power of the evil one*. ²⁰ And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding, in order that we might know Him who is true, and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

Not seen here in the English, but found in the Greek is the understanding that the people who belong to God do not intentionally keep on sinning. It means that they run from sin at every opportunity. We know the truth and, therefore, we do not want to keep sinning in the world in which we live. We are born of God and that makes us different.

²¹ Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

“Guard yourselves from idols.” Where did that come from? This whole book is about being born of God and how to know that you belong to God. Why does John end this with “Guard yourselves from idols?” It is because idols in this world are the things that keep us out of the will of God. When we cannot let go of the desires of our heart and things of the world, they become our god rather than the true God. We are to guard ourselves from the idols of this world so we can show the fruit and proof of the fact that we belong to Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

How to Know that You

Belong to God	Do Not Belong To God
(If these verses represent your heart ... you belong to God.)	(If these verses represent your heart ... you do not belong to God.)
1 John 1:7	1 John 1:6
1 John 1:9	1 John 1:8
1 John 2:3	1 John 1:10
1 John 2:5	1 John 2:4
1 John 2:10	1 John 2:9
1 John 2:17	1 John 2:11
1 John 2:24	1 John 2:15
1 John 2:29	1 John 2:16
1 John 3:3	1 John 2:21-23
1 John 3:7	1 John 3:4
1 John 3:9	1 John 3:6
1 John 3:14	1 John 3:8
1 John 4:7	1 John 3:10
1 John 4:13	1 John 3:15
1 John 4:15	1 John 3:17
1 John 4:16	1 John 4:8
1 John 4:21	1 John 4:20
1 John 5:1	1 John 5:10-11
1 John 5:2-3	
1 John 5:18	