



*that
you
may
know*

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i n t r o d u c t i o n

The apostle John begins his first letter with a statement: “That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3). He then summarizes the purpose of the epistle in 1 John 5:13 saying, “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, *that you may know* that you have eternal life.” John, the beloved disciple of Jesus, wrote 1 John to fellow believers that they might know they possess eternal life, and that they might enjoy that life through communion with Him.

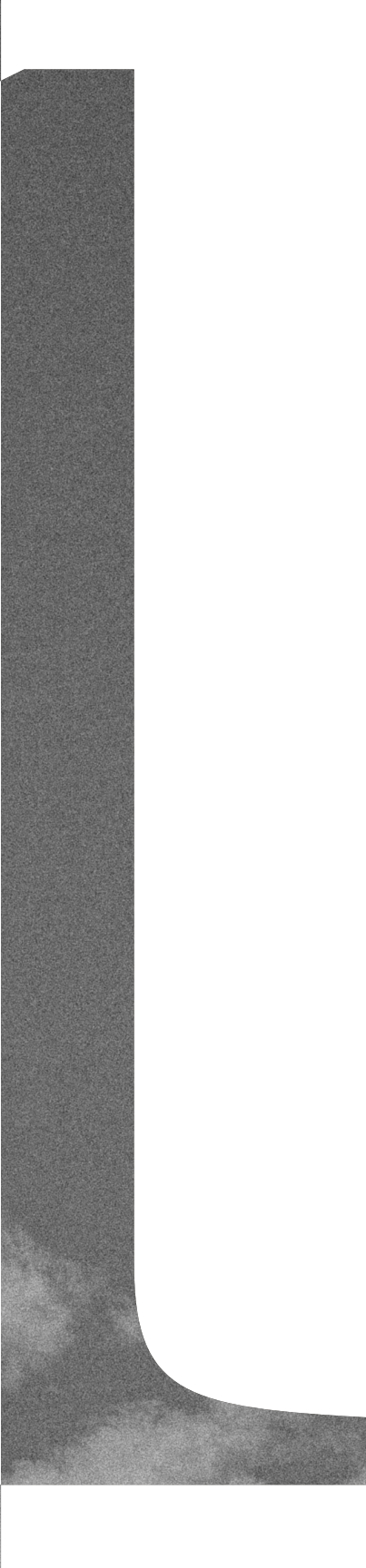
All who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ possess eternal life that will never be taken away (John 17:3). They are promised a future weight of glory beyond all comparison (2 Corinthians 4:17), and also have access to real, abundant life right now through intimate fellowship with Him (John 10:10).

The purpose of this workbook is to equip you to study 1 John for yourself in the context of discipleship relationships. Each lesson is intended to be completed over the course of one week and includes opportunities for Bible study, accountability, and prayer. We encourage you to invite a small group to walk through 1 John with you for eight weeks, doing the homework individually and meeting together weekly to discuss what you learned.

As you spend the next eight weeks in 1 John, humbly ask the Lord to deepen your fellowship with Him and your fellowship with others. Ask Him to give you assurance that eternal life is yours in Christ Jesus. Our prayer is that like the original recipients of John’s letter, you may know that you have eternal life.

week one





“I write these things to
you who believe in the
name of the Son of God
that you may know that
you have eternal life.”

1 John 5:13

Week One | 1 John Overview

This week you will begin with an overview of 1 John, so you can understand the full context in which the book was written. While the Word of God is true for us today, it was also written for specific people at a specific time in history. Learning that story will give you a fuller picture of the author's purpose and deepen your interpretation of the text.

Psalm 119:97 says, "Oh how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day." Spend a few moments in prayer before you begin this week's study, asking God to give you a love for His Word. Also take time after you finish to reflect on the truths you've learned, so that you're more mindful and intentional about carrying them into your week.

Observe

Read all of 1 John, located in the back of this workbook. As you read, underline the phrases "we are writing", "I am writing", and "I have written". Then answer the following questions:

1. In the space below, list any other repeated or significant words and phrases that you noticed as you read.
2. What are any major themes that stood out to you in this initial reading?

Interpret

The Author

3. Look up the following verses and record what you learn about the apostle John.

Matthew 4:21

Mark 3:13-17

1 John 1:1-4

The Recipients

4. Look up the following verses and record what you learn about the recipients of 1 John.

1 John 2:12-14, 21

1 John 2:20-21, 27

1 John 5:13

The Purpose

5. While it may take time to fully understand the content of this letter, John made a few clear statements about its purpose. Look everywhere that you underlined the phrases, “I am writing” and “I have written.” Based on John’s statements, why did he write this letter?

2 & 3 John

6. Reading John’s other letters will help you to better understand his message in 1 John. Read 2 and 3 John in your Bible. Then fill in the chart below with the names of the letters’ recipients and any themes that are similar to those in 1 John.

	Recipient(s)	Similarities with 1 John
2 John		
3 John		

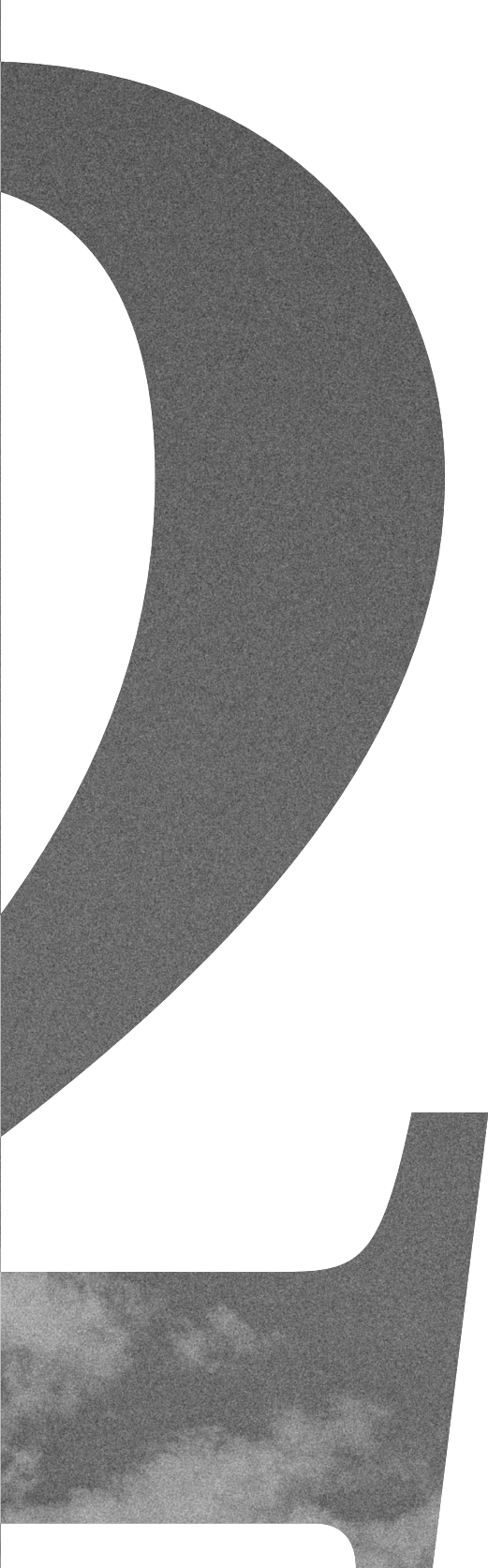
Apply

7. What did God teach you, or remind you, about Himself this week?
8. Which parts of this letter encouraged you?
9. Which parts of this letter challenged or confused you?
10. Which part are you most excited to study, and why?
11. In the space below, write a prayer of response to what God has taught you this week.

It is good to remember the confidence we have in Christ. We live in humble surrender and gratitude to God for His redemptive work in our hearts and rule over our lives. But following Jesus also gives us the greatest freedom—to abide in the love of the Father, walk in step with the Spirit, and drink up the truth Jesus so graciously offers when we sit at His feet. In the coming weeks, let us continue to seek, abide, and obey with confidence—because we know the truth, and eternal life is ours for the taking.

week two





“If we confess our sins, He
is faithful and just to forgive
us our sins and to cleanse us
from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 1:9

Week Two | 1 John 1:1-2:2

Last week you looked at 1 John from a bird's eye view, examining major themes, John's backstory, and his purpose for writing the book. This week, you'll study the difference between walking in light and walking in darkness, the importance of confession and repentance, and Jesus' role as Propitiation and Advocate.

Confessing sin to God and others may feel daunting at times. It may invoke shame or fear of rejection and loneliness. However, walking in the light not only gives us an opportunity to truly see and love one another, but also opens the door for richer fellowship and intimacy with Jesus. When He asked His disciples if they wanted to take the easier road and leave Him, Peter responded with all faith and humility, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68). Resist the urge to guard yourself this week. Instead, draw near to Jesus' cleansing power and abundant grace.

Observe

Read 1 John 1:1-2:2. As you read, ask "who, what, when, where, why, and how" questions. Then answer the following questions:

1. What words and phrases does John use to describe his experience with the Word of life? (1:1-4)

What does this tell you about his relationship with Him?

2. Why is John proclaiming the Word of life? (vv. 3-4)

3. What message had John heard? (v. 5)

What was he now doing with this message? (v. 5)

4. What contrast does John draw in verses 6 and 7?

5. What is true of the person who says that he or she has no sin? (v. 8)

In contrast, how will God respond if we confess our sins to Him? (v. 9)

6. What is John's reason for writing these things? (v. 1)

7. What do we have if we do sin? (v. 1)

List what you learn about Jesus from 2:1-2.

Interpret

Look at 1 John 1:1-4 again.

8. Read the following passages and record what you learn about the Word of life.

John 1:1-5

John 1:14

Look at 1 John 1:3-7 again.

9. How can a person provide opportunities for others to have fellowship with God? (v. 3)

10. How does walking in the light affect our fellowship with other believers? (vv. 6-7)

11. Read the following passages and record what you learn about light and darkness.

Psalms 104:1-2

John 3:17-21

John 12:35-36

Ephesians 5:1-14 [especially vv. 8-14]

1 Timothy 6:15-16

12. Based on what you have read so far, define the following two phrases.

Walk in the light

Walk in the darkness

Look at 1 John 1:8-10 again.

WORD STUDY

Confess : homologéō- to say the same thing as another, i. e. to agree with, assent

Forgive : aphīēmi- to send away; to let go, to give up a debt

13. Using the above definitions, rewrite 1 John 1:9 in your own words.

Look at 1 John 2:1-2 again.

WORD STUDY

Advocate : paraklêtos- one who pleads another's cause before a judge, a pleader, counsel for defense, legal assistant

Righteous : dikaios- used of him whose way of thinking, feeling, and acting is wholly conformed to the will of God, and who therefore needs no rectification in the heart or life

Propitiation : hilasmos- the means of appeasing, atonement

14. Using the above definitions, rewrite 1 John 2:1-2 in your own words.

15. How does knowing Jesus as our advocate and propitiation relate to what you've seen in 1 John 1?

Reflect

In his *Study on 1 John*, Timothy Keller writes:

John is a realist. He knows that his readers (and he himself) will sin. Having stated that we should not sin, he immediately goes on to tell us what to do when we do sin, which is to apply the gospel to ourselves through faith and repentance. John points people who are burdened by sin back to the basic truth of justification by faith. Justification by faith teaches this: By an act of free grace, God pardons our sins and accepts us as righteous because of what Christ has done on the cross. Through no effort of our own, we are made children of God, whom he loves and in whom he delights.

Many may know this is the way one begins the Christian life. However, many also forget it is how we are to continue in the Christian life. It begins in grace and ends in grace. We forget that our continued acceptance is dependent upon God and instead, we start living as though we have to earn it by trying harder, feeling badly, engaging more fervently in the disciplines of the Christian life, and doing good works. Each of these things may have their place, but none is enough to restore our relationship with God. Why? Because we cannot offer God a payoff. Only the perfect, sinless sacrifice of Christ can settle our debt! (Keller, 2007)

Apply

16. What did God teach you, or remind you, about Himself this week?

17. What are some reasons that believers don't always experience pure, deep communion with God? With other believers?

18. Describe a time when confession and repentance led to deeper fellowship with God and with others.

19. How might the desire for true fellowship motivate you to walk in the light this week?

20. Are confession and repentance part of the regular pattern of your life?

If not, what steps can you take to incorporate them into your life?

Is there any sin that you need to confess to the Lord today? To other believers?

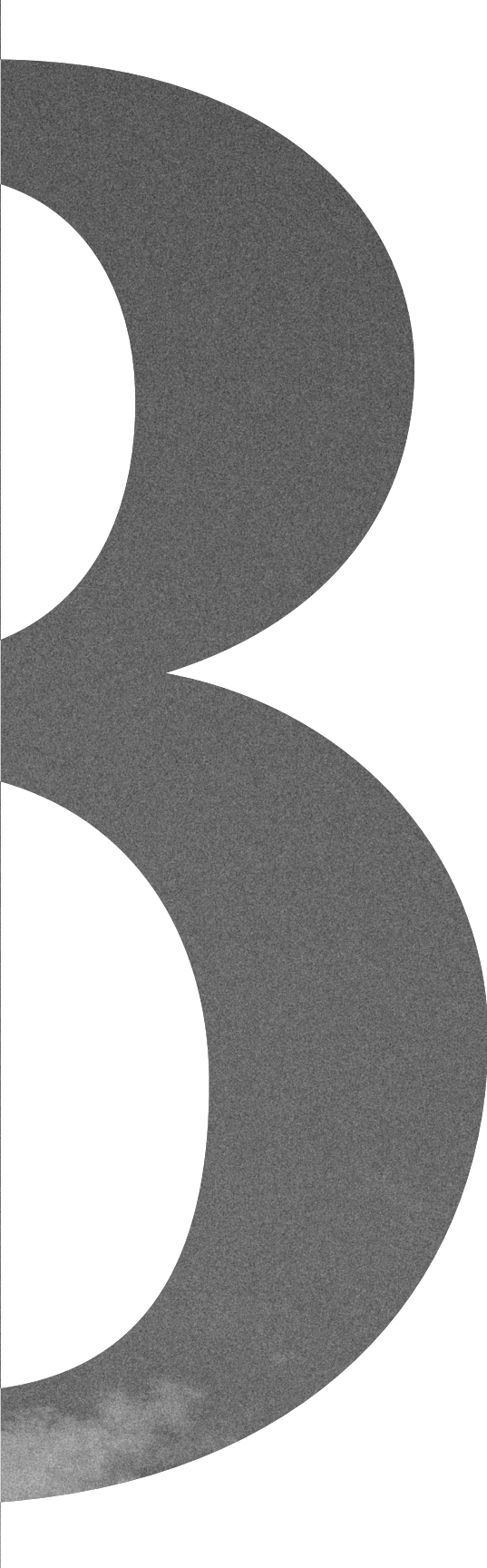
21. Consider what you've learned from God's Word this week and record a prayer of response in the space below.

Take a moment to praise Jesus for the fact that He doesn't hold on to our sin, but instead sends it away and goes before us as our advocate and friend. Remember why John wants us to understand the importance of confession and repentance: "so that our joy may be made complete" (1 John 1:4).

This might sound familiar, like a conversation John overheard between Jesus and His Father, as Jesus interceded for us in prayer: "But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves... that they may all be one, just as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me." (John 17:13, 21).

week three





“And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.

⁴ Whoever says ‘I know Him’ but does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵ but whoever keeps His word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in Him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked.”

1 John 2:3-6

Week Three | 1 John 2:2-14

Last week you saw that confessing our sins keeps us walking in the light and enjoying fellowship with God and His people. This week, you'll take a deeper dive into what it means to "abide" in Christ and to walk in the same manner in which He walked.

Abiding in the true Vine (Jesus) comes with challenges. It requires humility, as we recognize that we are not self-sufficient. We are co-laborers with God in His Kingdom work, for apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:5). At times, it requires discipline and suffering, as God prunes every branch of our lives that bears fruit so that it may bear more fruit (v. 2). But Jesus' promise is sure and true: "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love," and the fruit that He produces in us will remain (v. 16). God's love for us is unconditional, but when we abide in Jesus and imitate His life we can fully experience His love, power, and grace in ways we can't even imagine.

Observe

Read 1 John 2:3-2:14. As you read, ask "who, what, when, where, why, and how" questions. Then answer the following questions:

1. What does John say is involved in knowing God? (vv. 3-5)

What is perfected (maturing) in the one who does this? (v. 5)

2. How can we know that we abide in Christ? (vv. 5-6)

3. In the space below, write down what you observe about the commandment that John is giving. (vv. 7-8)

4. What characteristic distinguishes a person who walks in the light from one who walks in darkness? (vv. 9-11)

5. In the space below, record who John is addressing and why. The first one is done for you.

Addressee		Reason
v. 12	little children	your sins are forgiven for His name's sake
v. 13		
v. 13		
v. 13		
v. 14		
v. 14		

Interpret

Look at 1 John 2:3-11 again.

WORD STUDY

Abides : menō - remain, dwell, continue

Walk : peripateō- to walk about, be occupied

6. Using the above definitions, rewrite 1 John 2:6 in your own words.

7. The apostle John had learned about the fruit that comes from abiding in Christ from Christ Himself. Read Jesus' words in John 15:1-17, printed below, and draw a circle over every reference to "abide."

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹² "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another."

In the space below, record what you learn from marking the word “abide” in John 15:1-17. The first is done for you.

V. 4 – abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot produce fruit unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

8. Based on what you have observed, why is it true that “whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked”? (1 John 2:6)

Apply

9. What did God teach you, or remind you, about Himself this week?

10. What evidence do you see in your life that you know Jesus Christ? If you have questions about this, we encourage you to talk with those in your discipleship group.

11. What evidence do you see in your life that you are abiding in Him?

12. How will you abide in Christ this week?

How will this practice empower you to walk in the way that He has walked?

13. In what ways have you seen the love of God perfected (maturing) in you?

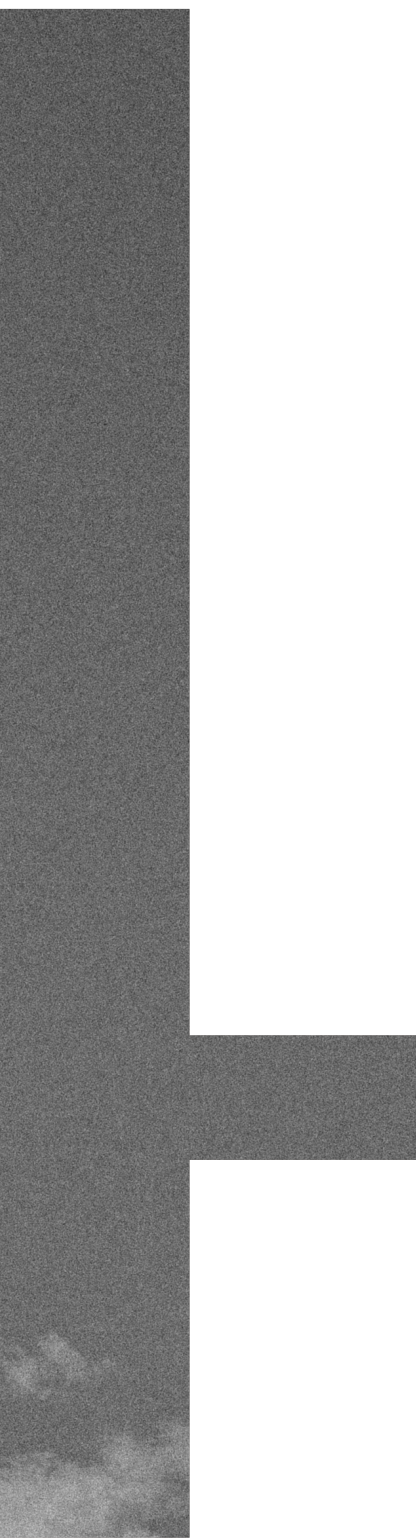
In what ways can the love of God mature even more?

14. Consider what you've learned from God's Word this week and record a prayer of response in the space below.

"God desires that his people bear fruit." This means that our lives should reflect the attributes of God's character; and that's a very high standard. Alone, we cannot simply muster up our own willpower to reflect God's perfect love, joy, peace, patience, or the other fruit of the Spirit. We are commanded to simply abide in His Word, His joy, and His love. Ask God to reveal any steps He might be asking you to take to abide in Him— for your growth and His glory.

week four

4



“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world - the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life - is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”

1 John 2:15-17

Week Four | 1 John 2:15-27

Last week you saw what it means to walk in the light, as you abide in Jesus and are “occupied” by the same things He was. This week you’ll see that those truths are in opposition to how the world would have us live—and that God anoints us to live according to His will instead.

Observe

Read 1 John 2:15-27. As you read, ask “who, what, when, where, why, and how” questions. Then answer the following questions:

1. What fills this world? (v. 16)

A.

B.

C.

2. What is happening to this world and all of its desires? (v. 17)

How does this contrast with those who do the will of God? (v. 17)

3. How do we know it is “the last hour”? (v. 18)

How are these people described? (v. 19)

4. What distinguishes the true follower of Jesus from those who “went out”? (v. 20)

5. Why is John writing these things? (v. 21)

6. Who is the antichrist? (v. 22)

How are those who confess the Son different from antichrists? (v. 23)

7. What does John want his readers to do with what they heard from the beginning? (v. 24)

8. Who is John writing about? (v. 26)

9. What abides in his readers? (v. 27)

What does this do for them?

Interpret

Look at 1 John 2:15-17 again.

10. Verse 16 gives three categories of desires found in the world: the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and the pride of life. Look up the following cross-references and record how they add to your understanding of these passions.

Desires of the flesh:

Galatians 5:16-18

Ephesians 2:1-3

Colossians 3:5-6

Desires of the eyes:

Genesis 3:4-8

Mark 9:47

2 Peter 2:14

James 1:13-15

Pride of Life:

Psalm 10:3-5

Mark 7:21-23

2 Peter 2:10, 17-19

11. 1 John 2:17 tells us that whoever does the will of God abides forever. Look up the following cross-references and record what you learn about God's will and His desires not only for you, but for the world.

Psalm 37:3-6

Mark 3:35

John 6:37-40

Romans 12:2

Look at 1 John 2:18-27 again.

WORD STUDY

Antichrist : antíchristos- an opponent of the Messiah

Anoint : chrísma - an unguent or smearing, i.e. (figuratively) the special endowment ("chrism") of the Holy Spirit

12. Using the above definitions, rewrite verses 18 and 20 in your own words.

13. How is the meaning of the Greek word translated as “antichrist” different from tradition, stories, and movies you’ve seen? How is it similar?

14. In 1 John 2:21, John reminds his readers of his purpose for writing. If they already know the truth, why do they need to be told again? Look at verse 26 to help with your answer.

15. In 1 John 2:20 and 27, John explains that those who abide in Jesus have been given an anointing from Jesus Himself. What is this anointing? Look up the following cross-references (in this order) to help you form your answer.

Luke 4:16-21

Acts 10:37-38

John 14:25-26

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

Apply

16. What did God teach you, or remind you, about Himself this week?

17. Go back and look at what you learned in "Observe" and "Interpret" about loving the world. Are there areas in your life in which you are still pursuing the desires of the flesh, desires of the eyes, or relishing in the pride of life? If so, list them below.

18. Look at the list you made above. Remind yourself of verse 17 and the destiny of the world and its desires. Pray about these desires, confess them to the Lord, and ask the Holy Spirit to deepen your desires for Jesus.

19. In verse 21, John tells his people that he is writing to remind them of the Truth and warn them of those who oppose Christ and desire to deceive them. How well do you receive the reminders from the Holy Spirit within you? How often do you allow Him to teach you everything through the Word? Elaborate on your response.

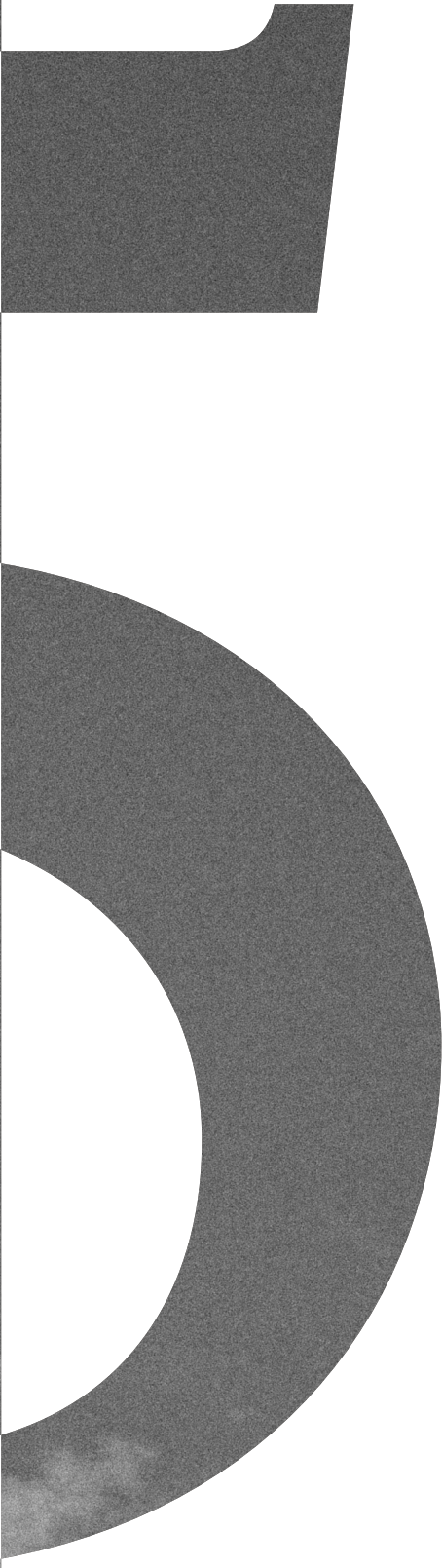
20. Consider what you've learned from God's Word this week and record a prayer of response in the space below.

Spiritual danger does not always take a visible form, but primarily lies in our flesh within and our unseen enemy without. This is partially why John wrote this letter - to warn against the internal, sinful desires of our hearts and of the deception of the enemy. He lurks around every corner, eager to pry into the crevices of our hearts. However, those who are in Christ have received the anointing of the Holy Spirit. As we abide in Christ and walk in the Spirit, we overcome the power of Satan and of our flesh.

Throughout your day, keep redirecting your thoughts back to the Lord. Memorize truths from His word, so you can fight temptation that comes your way and rejoice in the victory Christ gives us.

week five





“And now little children,
abide in Him, so that
when He appears we
may have confidence and
not shrink from Him in
shame at His coming.”

1 John 2:28

Week Five | 1 John 2:28-3:24

Last week you studied the warning John gave to the believers of the desires of our flesh and the deception from opponents of Christ. This week you'll look at Jesus' greatest commandments and what it looks like to belong to the family of God.

Observe

Read 1 John 2:28-3:10. As you read, ask “who, what, when, where, why, and how” questions. Then answer the following questions:

1. What is the result of abiding in Christ? (v. 28)
2. Because the Father is the source of righteousness, what will come from those who are born of Him? (v. 29)
3. Why does the world not know those who follow Jesus? (v. 1)
4. What does John lovingly remind his readers about their current identity? (v. 2)
5. What do John and his readers know will be true of them when they shall see Jesus? (v. 2)

6. What is true of the person who hopes in Jesus? (v. 3)

7. Why did Jesus appear? (vv. 5 & 8)

8. Complete the following statements based on verses 5-6.

- In Jesus there is _____. (v. 5)
- No one who abides in Jesus _____. (v. 6)
- No one who keeps sinning has _____. (v. 6)

9. What characterizes a person who is “of the devil”? (v. 8)

How does this contrast with a person who is “born of God”? (v. 9)

10. What does John say is “evident” about those who belong to God and those who belong to the devil? (v. 10)

Read 1 John 3:10-24. As you read, ask “who, what, when, where, why, and how” questions. Then answer the following questions:

11. What message had been heard from the beginning? (v. 11)

12. How can we know love? (v. 16)

13. How is love to be demonstrated? (vv. 16-18)

14. What do we learn about God in verse 20?

15. What do we have before God if our heart does not condemn us? (v. 21)

16. Why do we receive whatever we ask from Him? (v. 22)

17. What is His commandment? (v. 23)

What is true of the one who keeps His commandments? (v. 24)

Interpret

Look at 1 John 2:28-3:10 again.

18. John describes the recipients of his letter as “children of God” and “God’s children.” Look up the following cross-references and record what you learn about becoming children of God.

John 1:9-13

Romans 8:7-17

Galatians 3:5-4:7

19. What does John mean in verse 2 when he says, “what we will be has not yet appeared”? Use these cross-references to help with your answer.

Romans 6:22-23

1 Corinthians 15:47-55

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 & 4:16-18

Philippians 1:3-6

20. While hope and faith are two distinct words, they are closely related. One way to look at it is that faith is knowing Jesus is who He says He is, and will do what He says He will do. Hope takes it a step further and is a joyful anticipation or expectation that Jesus will act. Look up the following cross-references. How does “hope in Him (Jesus)” purify us as He is pure?

Exodus 19:9-11

Acts 15:8-9

Hebrews 10:21-23

1 John 1:9

21. The phrase “practice righteousness” is used three times in 1 John 2 and 3. The definition of “righteous” is “right standing before God.” Based on what you have studied so far, what do you think it means to practice this?

Look at 1 John 3:11-24 again.

22. John makes it clear that we know love because Jesus laid down His life for us. Look up the following cross-references and record what you learn about the love of God.

John 15:12-14

Romans 5:7-8

Ephesians 5:2

1 John 4:9

Apply

23. What did God teach you, or remind you, about Himself this week?

24. Consider the character of King Jesus. What specifically causes you (personally) to shrink back in shame from His presence?

25. Choose one of the passages you looked up on question 20 in the "Interpret" section. How might this passage give you confidence at His coming?

26. Read John's warning in verse 7 again. Do you ever find yourself being deceived by the lie that you can feed sinful desires and still be "righteous"? Explain and share your thoughts with your group.

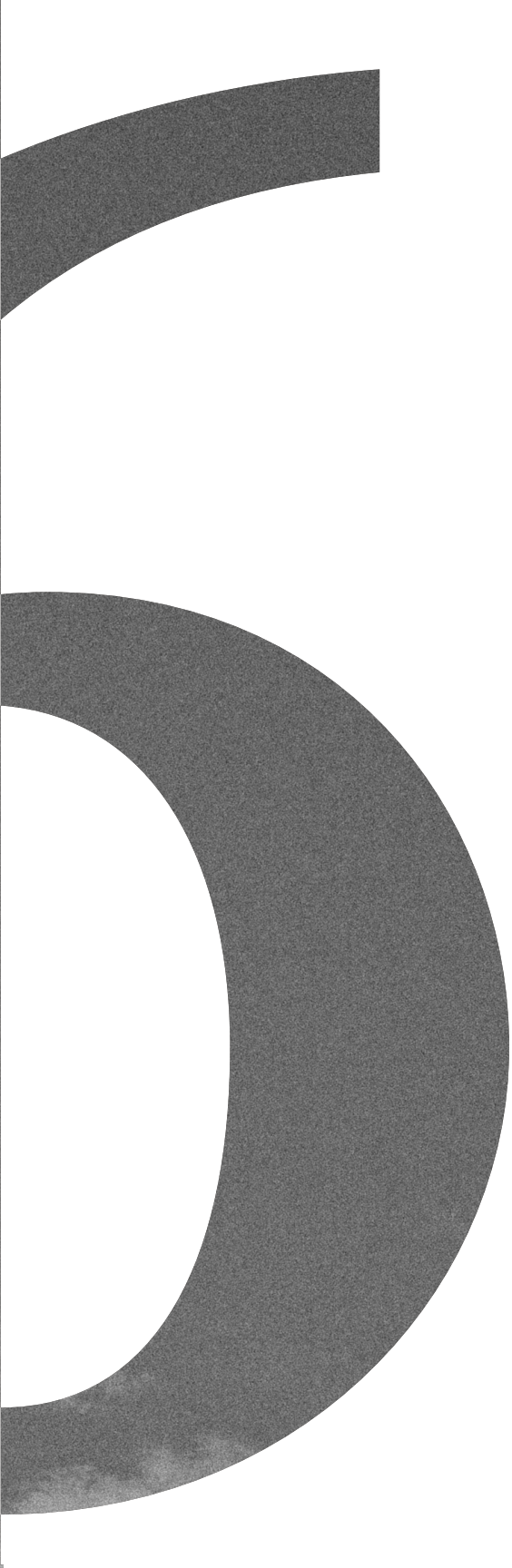
27. 1 John 3:5 says Jesus appeared to take away sins, and 1 John 3:8 tells us that Jesus appeared to destroy the works of the devil. Does your life look more like what Jesus came to destroy — tempting, lying, deceiving, slandering, and oppressing? Or does your life look more like His — healing, forgiving, speaking Truth, and submitting to God's will? Elaborate on your answers.

28. Consider what you've learned from God's Word this week and record a prayer of response in the space below.

What a gift we have in Jesus, who laid down His own life to call us friends, grafting us into His family. Praise God that He is "greater than our hearts," renewing us day by day and transforming us into the likeness of His Son. Be encouraged that God will finish the good work He began in you, and through you, others will experience the unconditional love of Christ.

week six





“So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love and whoever abides in love abides in God and God abides in him.”

1 John 4:16

Week Six | 1 John 4:1-21

Last week you saw Christ's chief commandments for our lives and how to live as children of God. This week, you'll look at how God has given His Spirit to discern between truth and falsehood, how God's love is made manifest, and the importance of abiding in Christ.

In My Utmost for His Highest, Oswald Chambers writes, "The measure of the worth of our public activity for God is the private profound communion we have with Him. Rush is wrong every time, there is always plenty of time to worship God... We have to pitch our tents where we shall always have quiet times with God, however noisy our times with the world may be."

If you feel caught in the fast-paced hurriedness of this world, ask the Lord to slow you down and quiet your mind this week so you can recognize His voice.

Observe

Read 1 John 4:1-21. As you read, ask "who, what, when, where, why, and how" questions. Then answer the following questions:

1. Why does John tell his readers they are to test the spirits? (v. 1)
2. How do they know the Spirit of God? (v. 2)
3. What is the spirit of the antichrist? (v. 3)
4. How do John's readers know "the spirit of truth and the spirit of error"? (vv. 4-6)

5. Who is the source of love? (v. 7)
6. What are we told to do in verse 7? Why are they to do this?
7. How was the love of God made manifest? (vv. 9-10)
8. How do John's readers know that God abides in them? (vv. 12-16)
 - verse 12 –
 - verse 13 –
 - verses 15-16 –
9. What gives us confidence, casting out fear for the day of judgment? (vv. 16-18)
10. According to verse 19, why do believers in Jesus love?

11. What does verse 20 say about those who claim to love God but hate their brother?

12. What commandment has God given? (v. 21)

Interpret

Look at 1 John 4:1-6 again.

13. Read Matthew 7:15-20. Jesus warned His disciples about false prophets who would try to deceive them. According to these verses, how would they recognize them?

14. Look up the following cross-references and record what you learn about the world.

Mark 8:35-37

Ephesians 2:1-3

John 15:18-19

Look at 1 John 4:7-10 again.

15. What do you learn about love in relation to God in verses 7-8?

WORD STUDY

Love : agapē - affection, good will, love, benevolence, brotherly love

Was made manifest : phaneroō - to appear, to make actual and visible

16. Using the definitions above, rewrite 1 John 4:9 in your own words.

17. Read Matthew 5:43-47. How does Jesus challenge us to love differently than the world?

Look at 1 John 4:15-18 again.

18. How does knowing and believing God's love for us give us confidence and cast out fear for the day of judgment? Look up the following passages and record what you learn.

John 3:16-17

Romans 8:38-39

19. What does John mean by the statement, “If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar”? (1 John 4:20) Look up the following passages and record what you learn.

Isaiah 29:13-16

Matthew 22:36-40

Reflect

In his *Study on 1 John*, Tim Keller writes:

John says implicitly in this passage that we don’t determine whether God loves us by our circumstances or our emotions. In essence he says, ‘Don’t look there. Feelings and appearances can be deceiving. Look instead on two irrevocable gifts of God: his Son (vv. 9-10, 14) and his Spirit (v. 13).’ To John, this is the only irrefutable and infallible evidence of his love: ‘This is how God showed his love among us.’ Realizing that God has given you his Son and his Spirit is what makes you certain of his love. Good circumstances are no guarantee of his love, just as troubles are no guarantee of his displeasure. When you are tempted to look at your circumstances and draw the conclusion, ‘God doesn’t care about me,’ you must fix your eyes instead on these two gifts. Lose yourself in wonder that anyone could be so lavish and generous to you. No other evidence is strong enough to overthrow the testimony of these two gifts.
(Keller, 2007)

Apply

20. What did God teach you, or remind you, about Himself this week?

21. How can you test the spirits if you aren't sure whether something is from God? (vv. 1-3)

22. What are three practical ways you can abide in God and in the love He has for you? (vv. 12-16)

A.

B.

C.

23. Describe a time when the love of God empowered you to love others.

24. In John 13:34-35, Jesus makes it clear that others will know we are His disciples by our love for one another. What are some noticeable ways that you are loving others, reflecting that you are a disciple of Christ?

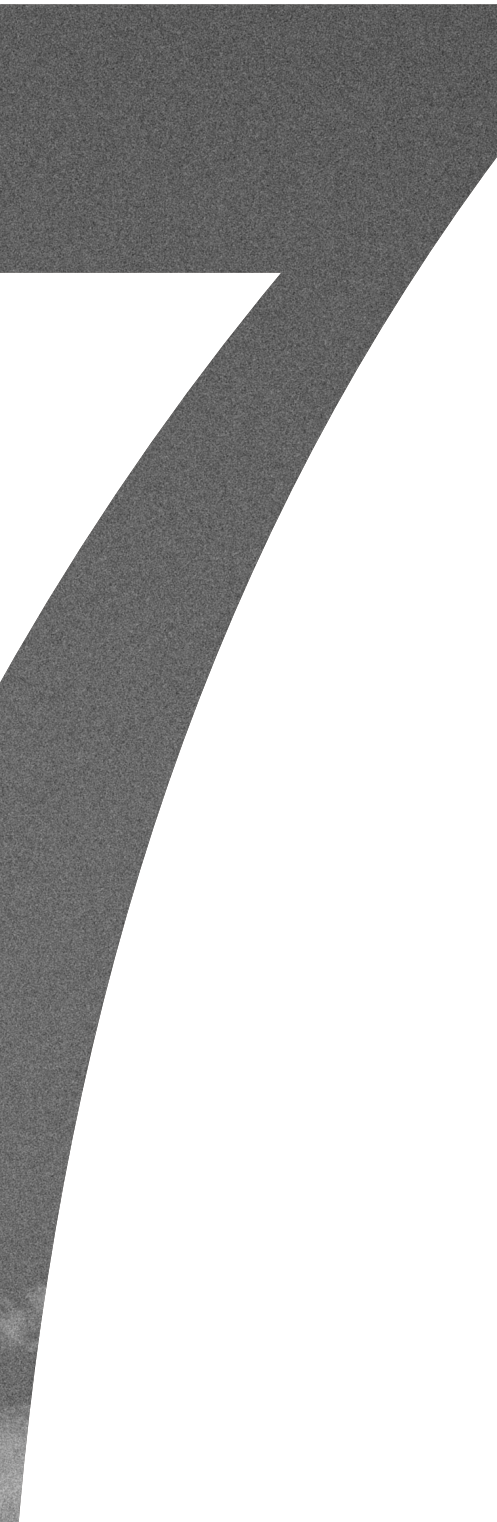
25. Consider what you've learned from God's Word this week and record a prayer of response in the space below.

We can only pour out Christ's love for others if we first rest in His love for us. We can only test the spirits around us if we don't mindlessly go through life, but instead intentionally take each thought captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor. 10:5). We could never muster enough willpower to do these things faithfully. Only by the power of the Spirit do we become new creatures, as He molds and refines the posture of our hearts so that it reflects in how we live our lives.

There's no shortcut to this. Abiding in Christ requires a slowness of heart and mind. So pause, ask the Lord to search your heart (Psalm 139:23), and invite Him into the good, hard, and ordinary parts of your life. Rest in who He is, abide in His love, and stay awake to His work this week.

week seven





“By this we know that we love the children God, when we love God and obey His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”

1 John 5:2-3

Week Seven | 1 John 5:1-12

Last week, you studied how to test the spirits and how God's love is manifested through Jesus and through our love for one another. This week, you will look at the author and protector of our faith, in whom all life and hope rest: Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Never let the gospel become common-place in your heart. Remember Christ, how He became one of us, and lived in perfect communion and obedience to the Father. Remember how He drew you to Himself and gave you a new heart.

Observe

Read 1 John 5:1-12. As you read, ask “who, what, when, where, why, and how” questions. Then answer the following questions:

1. Who has been born of God? (v. 1)
2. How do we know that we love the children of God? (v. 2)
3. How is the love of God described? (v. 3)
4. Who is it that overcomes the world? (Vv. 4-5)

5. How did Jesus Christ come? (v. 6)

6. What are the three that testify? (Vv. 6-8)

A.

B.

C.

7. Who has the greater testimony about Jesus, God or man? (v. 9)

8. What is the difference between those who believe in the Son of God and those who do not? (v. 10)

9. What is the testimony given in verses 11 and 12?

Interpret

Look at 1 John 5:1-5 again.

10. John makes it clear that our love for God is proven by our love for others and by our obedience to His commandments. (vv. 1-3) Review the following passages from 1 John and record what they say about keeping God's commandments.

1 John 2:3-4

1 John 3:23-24

1 John 5:3

11. How does our faith in Jesus Christ give us victory over the world? (Vv. 4-5) Look up the following passages and record what you learn.

John 16:33

1 John 4:4

Look at 1 John 5:6-12 again.

WORD STUDY

Testimony : martyria - evidence given (judicially or genitive case):—record, report, testimony, witness.

12. Using the definitions above, rewrite 1 John 5:9 in your own words.

John is clear that God has borne witness regarding His Son by the water, the blood and the Spirit. (v. 6) While there are various interpretations of these verses, one is that the water refers to Jesus's baptism, the blood refers to Jesus's death on the cross, the Spirit refers to the witness of the Spirit at Jesus's baptism and through the apostles.

13. The first witness (the water) refers to Jesus's baptism. Look up Matthew 3:13-17 and record the details of His baptism below. How did the Father testify about His Son?

14. The second witness (the blood) refers to Jesus's death on the cross. Look up Matthew 27:45, 50-53 and record how the Father displayed His miraculous power below.

15. The third witness is the Spirit. According to the following cross references, describe the role of the Holy Spirit.

John 15:26

John 16:13-14

16. 1 John 5:12 says, "Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life." Look up the following passages and record anything that adds to your understanding of this truth.

John 3:35-36

John 5:24-27

Reflect

In his *Notes on 1 John (2021 Edition)*, Dr. Thomas Constable writes:

Actually there are three witnesses to the truth (cf. Deut. 19:15; Matt. 18:16; John 8:17-18). These witnesses are: "the [Holy] Spirit" at Jesus' baptism, and subsequently through the apostles and prophets, "the water" of Jesus' baptism, and "the blood" of His crucifixion. John personified the latter two in this verse: "Water" and "Blood." The water of Jesus' baptism witnessed to His true humanity and His identification with humankind. The blood of Jesus' crucifixion witnessed to His complete obedience to His Father. The testimony of eyewitnesses and prophets, as well as that of the historical events, affirmed the divine and human character of Jesus Christ. (Constable, 2021)

Apply

17. What did God teach you, or remind you, about Himself this week?

18. What are practical ways that you can love the children of God as spoken of in 1 John 5:2?

19. List specific people the Lord is leading you to love, even if it is difficult.

20. Are there times when God's commandments seem burdensome to you? Explain.

21. Based on what you have seen in 1 John, are you confident that you possess eternal life?

Are you enjoying life that comes through fellowship with God?

Why or why not?

22. Consider what you've learned from God's Word this week and record a prayer of response in the space below.

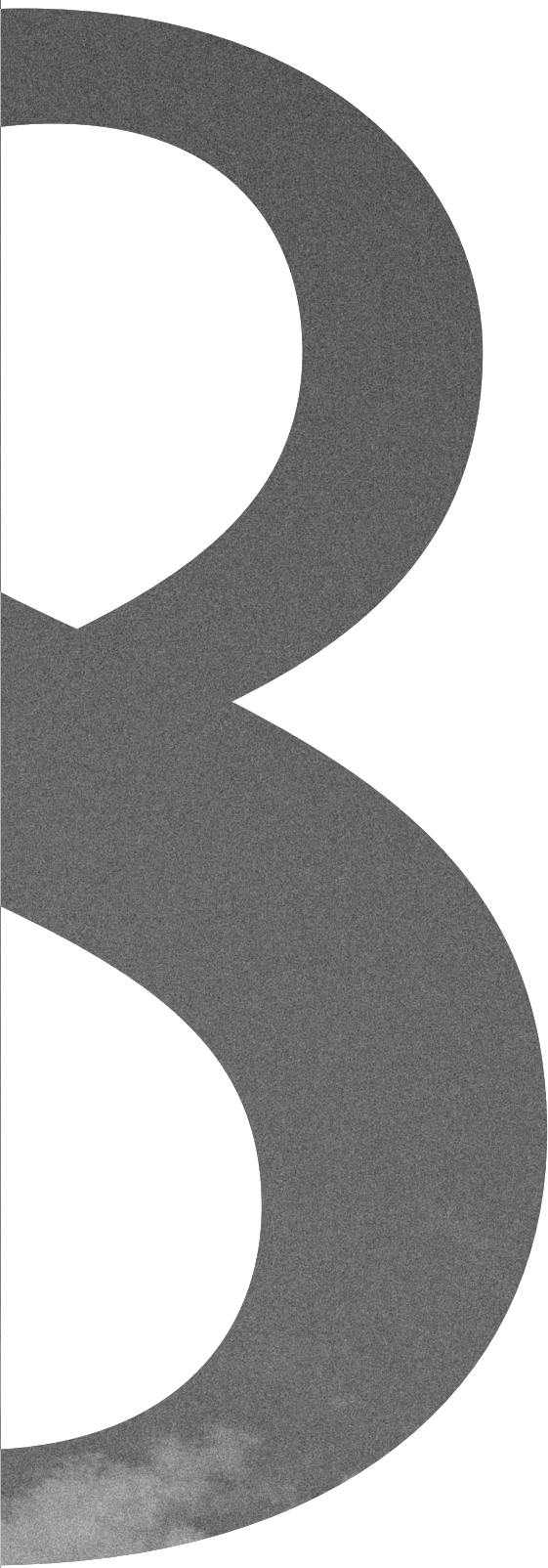
*Having all authority to carry out judgment, Jesus saved us **from** death and His wrath. He also saved us **for** life. Eternal life doesn't begin after we die—it begins from the moment we believe that Jesus is the Son of God, when we surrender to Him as Lord and are made new. A familiar hymn comes to mind:*

*I'm so glad I learned to trust Him,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend
And I know that He is with me,
Will be with me to the end.*

Life devoted to Jesus is not easy, but it is full and abundant. When we are filled up with His love and grace, we can't help but pour out that love to those around us. So this week, remember those people you listed above, and love them with abandon—no hidden agendas, no holding back. For that is how Christ has loved us.

week eight





“We know 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, in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.”

1 John 5:20

Week Eight | 1 John 5:13-21

You're in the homestretch of our 1 John study! Last week, you looked at how the water, the blood, and the Spirit testify that Jesus is the Son of God. In your final week, you'll study John's closing charge to intercede for others, pray according to God's will, and guard yourself from idols.

Observe

Read 1 John 5:13-21. As you read, ask “who, what, when, where, why, and how” questions. Then answer the following questions:

1. Verse 13 is a summary of John's letter. To whom is John writing? (v. 13)

Why is he writing to them?

2. What conditions are to be fulfilled in order to have confidence that God hears and answers our requests? (vv. 14-15)

3. Who is the one committing a sin not leading to death? (v. 16)

What are we to do in this situation?

4. Does John say who commits a sin leading to death? (v. 16)

How does John instruct his readers regarding the sin leading to death?

In light of what we have discovered in this book, what might be the sin that leads to death? (This is a hard question- consider the whole counsel of God's Word!)

5. What does John know about those who have been born of God? (v. 18)

Who protects them?

6. Look at each place that the word "know" is used in verses 19-20. List what John knows in the space below. (vv. 19-20)

7. How does John close his letter? (v. 21)

Interpret

Look at 1 John 5:13-21 again.

8. Look up the following cross-references and record what you learn about the believer and prayer.

John 9:31

John 14:14

John 15:7

John 16:24

1 Peter 3:7, 12

Hebrews 11:6

Apply

9. What did God teach you, or remind you, about Himself this week?

10. In light of 1 John 5:13-21, what should we pray for? For whom should we pray?

11. What has been the most significant thing that you have taken away from your time in 1 John?

12. In the space below, write a prayer of response to all that God has taught you during these last eight weeks.

Thank you for studying 1 John with us! We pray that you enjoy deep fellowship with God and with others as you abide in Christ and walk in the light. As a child of God, you can do this in all confidence, knowing that eternal life is yours in Christ Jesus.

1 John 1

THE WORD OF LIFE

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — ² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

⁵ This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

1 John 2:1-12

CHRIST OUR ADVOCATE

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. ³ And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ Whoever says "I know Him" but does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵ but whoever keeps His word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in Him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked.

THE NEW COMMANDMENT

⁷ Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. ⁸ At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining. ⁹ Whoever says he is in the Light and hates his brother is still in darkness. ¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother abides in the Light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. ¹¹ But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

¹² I am writing to you, little children,

1 John 2:12-18

because your sins are forgiven for His name's sake.

¹³ I am writing to you, fathers,

because you know Him who is from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young men,

because you have overcome the evil one.

I write to you, children,

because you know the Father.

¹⁴ I write to you, fathers,

because you know Him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men,

because you are strong,

and the word of God abides in you,

and you have overcome the evil one.

DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

WARNING CONCERNING ANTICHRISTS

¹⁸ Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming,

1 John 2:18-29

so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. ²⁰ But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. ²¹ I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. ²² Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. ²⁴ Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is the promise that He made to us—eternal life.

²⁶ I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. ²⁷ But the anointing that you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as His anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in Him.

CHILDREN OF GOD

²⁸ And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears we may have confidence and not shrink from Him in shame at His coming. ²⁹ If you know that He is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of Him.

1 John 3:1-11

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.

⁴ Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that He appeared in order to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in Him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen Him or known Him. ⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as He is righteous. ⁸ Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. ¹⁰ By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

¹¹ For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we

1 John 3:11-24

should love one another. ¹² We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. ¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

¹⁶ By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹ By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before Him; ²⁰ for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and He knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²² and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him. ²³ And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as He has commanded us. ²⁴ Whoever keeps His commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

1 John 4:1-12

TEST THE SPIRITS

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴ Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

GOD IS LOVE

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us.

1 John 4:13-21

¹³ By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as He is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love because He first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

1 John 5:1-12

OVERCOMING THE WORLD

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of Him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey His commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

TESTIMONY CONCERNING THE SON OF GOD

⁶ This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷ For there are three that testify: ⁸ the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. ⁹ If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that He has borne concerning his Son. ¹⁰ Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning His Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

1 John 5:13-21

THAT YOU MAY KNOW

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us.

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

¹⁶ If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. ¹⁷ All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

¹⁸ We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

¹⁹ We know that we are from 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, so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. ²¹ Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

Highland Women