

# 1 JOHN

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THE ANSWERS TO THE TEST

# UNIQUE ATTRIBUTES

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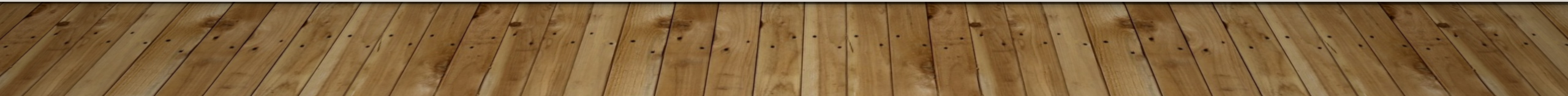
- No greeting or other introduction / conclusion
- Date: uncertain, AD 85-97 perhaps after John's gospel
- Dominated by what we are to know, and how we are to know (40x). Others: Love (46x), loving world (23x), fellowship/abide(remain) (24x)
- Occasion: deceivers
- Audience: "My little children", "beloved"
- "Spiral", an "edifice of stately harmonies"<sup>1</sup>
- Affirmation in God's Light (ch1-2)<sup>2</sup>
- Abiding in God's Love (ch3-4)
- Assurance in God's Life (ch5)

# THE TESTS OF LIFE

## *THREE TESTS OF GENUINE FAITH*

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- Theological: Test of true belief
- Moral: Test of true obedience
- Social: Test of true love





# THE FELLOWSHIP TEST

## MORAL: TEST OF OBEDIENCE

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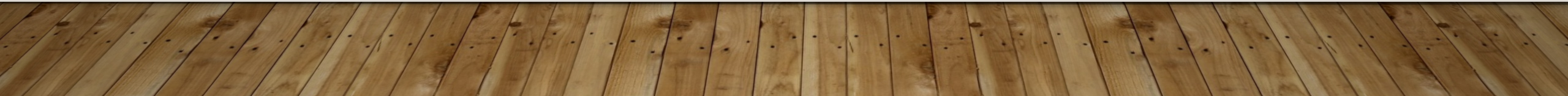
1:5-7

True **fellowship** is marked by **walking** in the **light**, cleansed from **sin** by Jesus **blood**

What we **say** about **fellowship** must align with our **walk**

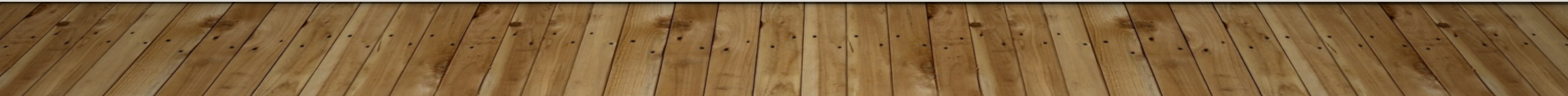
*The fellowship test:*

- ☒ If we say we have fellowship and walk in darkness
- ☑ If we walk in the light as He Himself is in the Light



These two truths are fundamental and must control and condition our lives if we call ourselves Christian. Indeed, all Christian profession may be judged in relation to these truths. No thought or action can be condoned which is inconsistent either with God's nature as light, pure and self-giving, or with His historical, palpable self-disclosure in Christ.

John Stott



# TEST THE SPIRITS TEST

## THEOLOGICAL: TEST OF TRUE BELIEF

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4:1-6

**“Don’t believe every spirit” (v1)**

We are to discern **sprit of truth** and **sprit of error** (v2)

*The “Test the spirits” test:*

- ☑ Spirit of truth: Confesses Jesus in flesh (v2), greater than (spirit) in world (v4), overcomes (v4), listens to true teaching (6)
- ☒ Sprit of error: does not confess Jesus (v3), speak as from world (v5), does not listen to true teaching (v6)



# TEST THE SPIRITS TEST

## SOCIAL: TEST OF TRUE LOVE

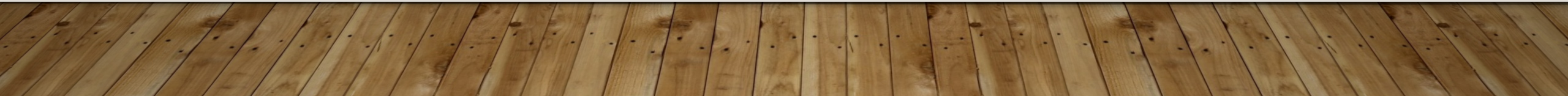
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2:7-11

**Loving my brother** is not a **new commandment**, it's the pinnacle of commandments.

*The “are you in the light?” test:*

- ☒ He says “**he is in the light**”, but demonstrates by his life that he “**hates his brother**” (v9) is in **darkness**, walks in darkness, and **stubs his toe on the dresser** (v11).
- ☑ The **one who loves his brother** abides in the light – there is **no cause for stumbling** in him (v10).



# THE DON'T LOVE LIKE CAIN TEST

## SOCIAL: TEST OF TRUE LOVE

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3:11-18

Example to avoid: Caine slew his brother

Example of Christ: what true love looks like – laid down life

*The “Loving in deed and truth” test:*

- ☒ Attacks the **righteous** (like **Cain**), filled with **hate** (v15), equated with **murder** (words of Jesus), **closes heart** to needs of others (17).
- ☑ **We know** what true love is, sacrificial (v16), **loves in deed and truth** (not with words alone) (v18)

