

CHRISTIAN FAMILY CHAPEL HOPE CENTER

THE BOOK OF 1 JOHN

TONY ANDERSON



1 JOHN

BIBLE STUDY

Tony Anderson

The Apostle John was one of Jesus' twelve disciples and lived and served with Jesus for three and half years during Jesus' earthly ministry. John was one of the three most intimate associates with Jesus (along with Peter and John's brother James—Matthew 17:1). Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit John wrote the gospel of John, the book of Revelation and First, Second and Third John. According to history, John was the last living disciple when he wrote 1 John in approximately 90 AD. John states in the letter that his purposes in writing the letter is so that believers can have fellowship with God and other believers (1 John 1:3-4), and so that a person can know if he is saved and has eternal life (1 John 5:13).

Some of the commentary and explanation set forth below is from Jay E. Adams (where noted) and adapted from The Christian Counselor's Commentary by Jay E. Adams.

Also, the division of the study by days is set forth only as a guide. You are encouraged to prayerfully study and meditate on the scriptures and the questions. Do not be in a rush. It is also suggested that as you get to a new chapter of 1 John you read all of that chapter through once before you answer the questions on that chapter.

Chapter 1

Day 1 (1 John 1:1-4)

1. The “beginning” in verse 1 speaks to the beginning of Jesus’ earthly ministry (which was approximately 3 ½ years). How does the Apostle John establish his qualifications to write this Letter?
2. What term is used to describe Jesus in verse 1?
3. How is Jesus described in verse 2?
4. How does John’s description of Jesus as the “Word of Life,” and the eternal life which was with the Father and “manifested” to mankind impact your thinking about who Jesus is?

5. In verses 3 and 4, why does John say he is writing this letter?

6. John seeks to proclaim truth so that you may have fellowship with other believers and with God the Father and Jesus; and John states this fellowship is the foundation for joy (Truth→Fellowship→Joy). In what ways have you pursued joy without seeking God's truth and fellowship with God and fellow believers?

7. What specifically can you do now to increase your knowledge of God (truth) and fellowship with God? What specifically can you do now to increase your fellowship with other believers?

Day 2 & 3 (1 John 1:5-10)

Note: In 1 John 5:13, John states that one reason he has written this letter is so that the reader may have assurance of eternal life. In 1 John 1:5-10, John sets out 3 affirmations (evidences) of eternal life in the believer as well as the spiritual reality concerning a person's life if these affirmations (evidences) are not true about a person.

8. Why is it impossible for a person to walk with God and walk in the darkness?

9. What do you think it means for a person to walk in darkness?

10. In verse 6, what does John say a person is doing when he says he has fellowship with God yet walks in darkness?

11. What does it mean for a person not to “practice the truth”?
12. Are there areas of your life where you know God’s truth but do not practice it (i.e., walk in obedience)? If so, where?

Explanation: God is “Light” refers to the fact that God is pure light referring to the fact that (i) intellectually: He is the truth; while darkness refers to error or falsehood, and (ii) morally: light refers to the God’s absolute purity and holiness; while darkness refers to sin and wrongdoing. Light always casts out darkness. Therefore, a person who habitually walks in darkness of error, falsehood and sin can’t be walking in the Light (i.e., in relationship with God) (Jay E. Adams).

13. From 1 John 1:7, what will be true of the person who walks in the light?

14. Do you have close fellowship with other Christ followers? If yes, list their names below.
15. If you answered no to the previous question, what can you do practically to develop such close fellowship? Will you take those steps? Possible suggestions: join a small group or family group at church or serve at church with a group of people.
16. From 1 John 1:8, what is true of the person who says he has no sin?
17. From 1 John 1:10, if you say you have not sinned, what are you saying about God? And what is true about you?

18. Do you in theory acknowledge you "are a sinner" and "not perfect," but then try to explain away or rationalize your sin? List a sin below that you have rationalized away. Ask God to help you bring that sin into the light and handle it God's way.
19. 1 John 1:9 starts with "If we confess our sins," not if we sin. The term confess means not only to acknowledge the fact of your sin but to agree with God that is wrong. Do you regularly confess specific sins to God?
20. How is God described in Verse 9?
21. What does verse 9 say God will do if you confess your sins?

22. Why do you think the fact that God is faithful results in Him granting forgiveness if you confess your sin?
23. Why do you think the fact that God is righteous (Just-ESV) results in Him granting you forgiveness if you confess your sin?

Explanation: John was very intentional in using faithful and righteous to describe God. Faithful refers to the fact that God is a promise keeper, and He has said anyone who confesses and believes Jesus is Lord will be saved (Romans 10:9-10). Righteous (Just) refers to the fact that God has accepted Jesus' death on the cross as payment for the sins of a believer (Romans 3:24-25; Hebrews 2:17). Therefore, it would be unrighteous and unjust to withhold forgiveness from a believer who has placed faith in Jesus and confessed his sin because that sin has already been paid for by Jesus sacrificial death.

24. How does the above truth affect your thinking about going to God for forgiveness?
25. 1 John 1:5-10 tells us that a true Christ follower will be walking in the Light and growing (not perfectly) in obedience to the truth, while having fellowship with other believers and regularly confessing sins to the Lord. An unbeliever will habitually and regularly (as part of his character) walk in the darkness of falsehood and disobedience to God's Word, without true, sincere fellowship with other believers, while denying or rationalizing sin in his life. After prayerful consideration of this chapter, would you say you are a born-again follower of Jesus Christ? If you answered yes, write a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord below. If you answered no, or you are not sure, would you take this opportunity to cry out to the Lord; acknowledging to Him you are a sinner, and that Jesus paid the penalty for your sin and humbly asking Jesus to be both your Savior and Lord?

Chapter 2

Day 4 (1 John 2:1-2)

26. Jay Adams describes Chapter 2 as the beginning of the actual letter. Chapter 1 served as an introduction to the uncertain reader to help her know if she really was a believer. How does John address the reader in 1 John 2:1?
27. John expresses his fatherly love in verse 1. Why does he say he is writing things to his dear children (i.e., Christians)?
28. John knows true believers would still be tempted to sin. From 1 John 2:1-2 what can a believer who is tempted and yields to temptation know about Jesus (list all the ways Jesus is described)?

29. Based upon your answer to the previous question, how could Jesus be your advocate before the Father? What would He say on your behalf? (Note: An advocate is a person who defends, or pleads the cause of, another).

Explanation: John reminds his readers that Jesus is our "propitiation" for our sins. That means He was the appeasing sacrifice to pay the penalty for our sins and to satisfy the wrath of a holy God. So as our Advocate (Intercessor), He does not have to use tricks or technicalities before the Father in order to get us off the hook. He admits our guilt but declares that the debt has been paid if the person has placed faith in Jesus as his Savior and Lord. (Jay E. Adams).

30. Why do you know you can be assured of salvation if you have confessed your sin, acknowledged that Jesus lived a perfect life so that He could, and did, die in your place in payment for the penalty for your sin, and asked Him to be your Savior and Lord?

31. What are your thoughts about Jesus and God the Father when you think of these realities?
32. How would you explain the difference between trying to please God in order to be accepted by God versus seeking to please God out of gratitude for what He has already done for you (forgiven you and accepted you)?

Note: 1John 2:2 refers to Jesus being the propitiation for the sins of the whole world. We know from the Scriptures that this does not mean every single person will be saved. What this speaks to is Jesus came to die for people out of every nation, tribe, peoples, and tongues, not just for the Jews (Revelation 7:9).

Day 5 (1 John 2:3-11)

33. In 1 John 2:3 how does John say you can know that you **have come** to know Him -Jesus?
34. How does John describe the person who claims to know Jesus but does not keep Jesus' commandments (verse 4)?
35. In verse 5, when it says God's love has been "perfected", it means the love of God in the believer has accomplished its purpose. From verse 5 what is that purpose?
36. John explains in verses 3-5 that when a person accepts Jesus as Savior, the Spirit of God comes to live in him and empowers the believer to keep the commandments of God. This is the purpose of God's love and how a person knows he is "in Him" (verse 5). Therefore, a true believer will be growing in obedience to God (verse 3). As Jay Adams said, "Grace does not eliminate the requirement

to obey. It enables one to do so." However, an unbeliever (even if he claims to be a Christian), is unable, and has no desire to, keep God's commands (verse 4). Are you growing in your obedience to God's commands?

37. Would the people who know you the best say that they have witnessed your growing obedience to God?

38. Is there an area of your life where you are refusing to obey the Lord? If you answered yes, why do you think that is true?

39. Based upon verse 6, what should be true of a person who abides in Christ?

40. Write down how you can “walk” more like Jesus in an area of your life where there is room for growth (perhaps the area named in question 39). Be specific in the areas of thoughts, attitudes, words, and actions.

Explanation. In verses 7 & 8 John refers to something that is both an old and a new command. The command is unstated here, but in 2 John 5,6 John discloses the command to be “to love”. A believer is to love God through obedience and to love others. John says this command to love is not new because as believers we have heard it from the beginning (when we heard the gospel), yet it is new in that we are to love “like Jesus loved.” Jesus is the first person in human history that kept the command “to love” perfectly. He perfectly loved and obeyed His Father and He loved us perfectly (do what is in our best interest, no matter the cost). (Jay E. Adams).

41. Prior to Jesus’ life, death and resurrection, the world was in darkness. But now Jesus, the real Light, has come and is shining, and darkness is passing away (verse 8). What can you do over the next few weeks to be used by Jesus to bring His light into the darkness?

42. Biblical love is doing what is in the best interest of a person, according to the Bible, no matter the cost and with no strings attached. "Hate" would be the opposite of that. Currently, is there a person you are hating (being unwilling to love)? Write their name here.
43. According to 1 John 2:9-11, what is true of the person who hates his brother?
44. According to 1 John 2:10, what is true of the person who loves his brother?
45. John says that a person who loves his brother is not a stumbling block to others. Why do you think that would be true?

46. Write down ways that you have seen where your "hatred" or "bitterness" toward a person has been a stumbling block to others.
47. Do you know anyone who is hateful toward others because they are blind and walking in darkness?
48. If yes, what is your attitude toward them?
49. How will being reminded that this person is spiritually blind affect your attitude and your actions toward this person?

Day 6 (1 John 2:12-14)

50. In verse 12, the Greek word for children is different from the Greek word translated "children" in verse 13. In verse 12 the term is used to refer to children of all ages. If your sins are forgiven, whose child are you?
51. What do you think the term "for His name sake" implies in verse 12?
52. In verses 13 and 14, John address "fathers" who are men who have been believers for a long time, and who know the Scriptures and how to apply them to life. Do you have spiritual fathers in your life? If not, how can you go about finding such a person to be in your life? Titus 2 speaks to young women having wiser older ladies in their lives as well. If you are a young Christian lady, do you have wiser older Christian ladies in your life?

53. These verses also speak to young Christians who know the word of God and have the vitality to stand against the evil one. If you are an older Christian, are you looking for younger Christians to encourage and to partner with in ministry? If not, why not?
54. If you are a younger Christian would others say that you are strong, the Word of God abides in you, and you stand against evil?
55. In which of these areas do you need to grow, and what will you do to accomplish this growth?

Day 6: (John 2:15-17)

56. "World" in verses 15 and 17 refers to the spiritual system of evil ruled by Satan, the kingdom of darkness. It is composed at any given time of all those who have not been forgiven by Jesus. Based upon verse 15, if a Christian loves God and fellow Christians, what also must be true of that person?
57. From verse 16, what is a love for the "world" characterized by?

Explanation: Lust in this case means a strong desire for something evil. Lust of the flesh refers not only to sexual pleasure, but also desire driven decision making based upon ease, comfort, and pleasure. Lust of the eyes speaks to sinful coveting of things you see. The boastful pride of life speaks to arrogance over position and possessions. Such lusts and attitudes are not from God the Father. But from the "world" over which Satan currently has dominion.

58. Where and how do you currently struggle with:
- a. the lust of the flesh?
 - b. the lust of the eyes?
 - c. the boastful pride of life?
59. If you were to put off these sinful desires and attitudes, what opposite God pleasing desires and attitudes would you replace them with (Ephesians 4:22-24)? Again. Be specific.
60. From verse 17, what is true about the world over which Satan rules? Why is this true?

61. What is the good news for the person who does God's will?

62. Practically what does it mean to do God's will?

*Explanation: God's will for you is set forth in His Word, the Bible. A believer does God's will by obeying His commandments. God's directive/moral will for you is set forth in the Bible and is not discerned by "leadings," "promptings" or "circumstances." For further study on discerning the will of God for your life, I recommend the book, **Just Do Something**, by Kevin DeYoung. It is also important to understand that a person does God's will because God has saved him and placed the Holy Spirit in the person giving that person the desire and ability to obey. Obedience is evidence of salvation, not the way to salvation (see Eph. 2:8-10; Philippians 2:13).*

Day 7: (1 John 2:18-29)

Verses 18-29 warn against false teachers and false teachings. The term antichrist means an opponent to the Messiah (the Christ). In verse 18, the first reference to the singular antichrist refers to the final world leader energized by Satan. However, John also references many antichrists who have already come opposing Jesus as Messiah. (Jay E. Adams).

63. According to verse 19, where were these antichrists before they "went out"?

64. How does this truth serve as a warning for our churches today?

65. According to verse 19, how do we know these false teachers (antichrists) were not true believers?

66. The anointing referenced in verses 20 and 27 refers to the Holy Spirit coming to indwell (live in) the inner man of a Christian at the time he or she places faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. From this passage of Scripture, what is one of the key roles of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian?
67. From verses 22-23, if a person refuses to believe Jesus is the promised Messiah, what does that say about his relationship with God the Father?
68. How would you use these verses to respond to a person who says he believes in God, but not that Jesus was who Jesus said he was?

69. From verses 24-25 & 28, what will be true of the person who "abides" (i.e., remains) in the truth about Jesus that he learned in the beginning (at the time of his salvation)? List them all.
70. Are you abiding (remaining) in the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, or have you left to pursue other religions or philosophies or half-truths?
71. From verse 29, what will be evidence of a person's true salvation?

Explanation: The point John is making in verse 27 is NOT that we no longer need to be taught the Bible. Rather, it is a warning that you do not need any teaching beyond or contrary to the Gospel and the Scriptures to know how to be saved and how to grow in Christlikeness.

Chapter 3

Days 8 & 9 (1 John 3:1-10)

72. What seems to amaze the apostle John in 1 John 3:1?
73. What are your thoughts, when you think that a holy God would chose to identify with you (if you have accepted Jesus as your Savior and Lord) in such an intimate family relationship as your Father and you as his child? Write a prayer to God expressing your thoughts.
74. Why does the world not know you (think: "why does the world not know or care that I am a child of God)?

75. It is great that you become a child of God "now" when you place faith in Jesus, but what is also true when Jesus appears (comes back)?
76. When Jesus returns, a child of God will be transformed and become like Jesus. The child of God at that time will be sinless and possess powers he or she does not currently have. He or she will be given rule and authority over the angels themselves (1 Cor. 6:2-3; Hebrews 1:14). How does this truth encourage you now during your current times of trials and distress?
77. When Jesus returns, we will see Him as He truly is and no longer have to rely on our imagination to try and "picture Him". How does that excite you?

In the Bible, hope (referenced in verse 3) always refers to something that is as certain to happen as history because it grows out of a promise of God that cannot fail. The only thing that makes it hope is because it has not occurred yet. It is NOT an "I hope so" hope.

78. According to verse 3, what is the present effect of that hope on the life of the believer?

79. The principle John is laying out is that future expectations should motive holiness now. Because Jesus is coming back, we should be making purification now, much like cleaning a house for a coming guest. Jesus is a guest that could be coming at any time. What "rooms" (i.e., areas of your life) in your house need purification? What will you do differently to "clean house"? Be specific.

80. What does 1 John 3:4 say about committing sin?

81. From verse 5, why was Jesus able to carry away the sins of those who believed in Him? (see Leviticus 16:20-22).

82. Lawless and lawlessness refers to a lifestyle or habit of living outside the law with no regard for the law. From verse 6 what is true of the person who abides(remains) in Jesus? What is true of the lawless person? (see verse 4).

Explanation: John is not saying a true Christian will never sin. Otherwise, he would not have needed to write what he wrote in 1 John 1:8-9; or called us to purify ourselves as he did in 1 John 3:3. Instead a true believer isn't "deemed" lawless because he remains in Christ and is viewed by God as perfect and as he abides in Christ, he will become progressively more like Jesus.

83. Are there areas of your life where you are not becoming more like Jesus? If so list them below.

84. Would you say the lack of growth identified above is because (i) you are not a true believer in Christ, or (ii) you lack knowledge from the Bible as to what obedience looks like, or (iii) other?

85. From verse 7, what is John concerned might happen to God's children?
86. Practicing as used in these passages refers to a **habitual and intentional** way of "doing," it does not mean perfection. John does not want us to be deceived by false teaching about salvation and evidence of salvation. From verses 7-10 what are the evidences that a person is a child of God?
87. What is the evidence that a person is still of the devil (i.e., unsaved)?
88. From verse 9, why do you think a true believer does not keep "practicing" (see the definition above) sinning?

89. From verse 10 a true believer will also love his brother. Biblical love is doing what is in the best interest of the other person, according to the Bible, no matter the cost and with no strings attached. Where can you grow in your love for another person?

Day 10 (1 John 3:11-18)

Reminder: John places an emphasis on “the beginning” through out his letter. He is referring to the beginning of the believer’s born-again life and encouraging the new believer to remember the gospel (the good news about Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection) and not to stray from it or to add to it.

90. John is called the apostle of love yet calls out strongly false teaching because it is the loving thing to do. Do you have family or friends who believe false teaching? Have you loved them well by seeking to show them the errors of their thinking? If not, why not?
91. Cain was evil and not loving. Why did he kill his brother Abel (verse 12)?

92. Abel, just like Jesus, was killed because his righteousness brought out the contrast between his life and the life of others (in his case Cain). Do you have animosity toward anyone because that person's personal righteousness is in contrast to some of your sinful practices? Have you been envious of that person like Cain was of Abel?
93. Prayerfully consider your answer to the above question. If you harbor animosity and envy toward someone, would you confess it to the Lord and repent (write such a prayer below).
94. Based upon verse 13, what can you expect if you seek to love Jesus and others and walk in obedience to Jesus' commands?

95. Jesus taught us that hatred is murder (Matthew 5:21-22). A person who hates a person has committed murder in his heart. John is again setting forth a test to offer a person objective assurance of his/her salvation. Based upon verses 14 and 15 what is true of a murderous/hateful person?
96. The Bible tells us that David was a murderer and that Paul, while he was known as Saul, "breathed out murderous threats." Verse 15 says no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. So, what must happen for a "murder" to have eternal life?
97. From verses 16-18, list all the ways that biblical love is described and manifested.?

98. Prayerfully consider, then write down how you can grow in showing love in the ways described in your previous answer.

Day 11 (1 John 3:19-24)

Jay Adams points out that the Apostle John says some hard things in Chapter 3 that are intended to separate the true from the false. However, John doesn't want true believers to misunderstand and lose their assurance of salvation because of his words. He addresses this matter in this section of scripture.

99. The phrase "by this" in verse 19 refers to the Christlike love described in verses 16-19. From this verse how can you know you are "of the truth" and have assurance of your salvation before Jesus?

Jay Adams acknowledges that a person may have subjective doubts about his salvation and his heart might "condemn" him. However, God writing through John has set out objective tests that offer assurance of salvation. God and His Word are greater (than your subjective thinking), and He knows all things.

100. If a person trusts God's Word, God's promises, and God's means of assurance of salvation, then his heart will not condemn him, and he will have assurance of his salvation. From verse 21 what is the result of that assurance?

101. A person confident of her salvation will no longer fear God but boldly live for God. What will be true in that person's life (verses 22-23)?
102. As John closes chapter 3, he again offers assurance of salvation for the believer in verse 24. What are those assurances?

Chapter 4

Day 12 (1 John 4:1-6).

103. In the previous chapters, John has laid out “tests” to help the believer be assured of his salvation. What does John want the believer to test for (be careful of) in this section of scripture?
104. John wants the believer to be discerning and aware of false teachers and prophets who are the mouthpieces of false spirits. In verses 2 and 3 John is warning about false teachers of Gnosticism. What is the test for a false Gnostic teacher in these verses?
105. In 1 John 4:4, who is the “them” that believers have overcome? Who is the “he” who is in the world?

106. Verse 4 reminds us that Christians have overcome false teachers because the Spirit of Jesus in them is greater than Satan and his false spirits. Although not the point John is making in this verse, given that truth, can you see how it is impossible that a believer indwelt by the Spirit of Christ could be "demon possessed"?
107. In verse 5 and 6, John gives a general test for determining false teachers. In verse 6, "We" refers to the Apostle John and the other Apostles and prophets (i.e., the human writers of the Bible who wrote under the direction of the Holy Spirit). What is the test for determining if a teacher is a false teacher or not?
108. Some so called believers teach based upon their "experience," then try to make God's Word fit their experiences. We must instead interpret our experiences through God's Word. Have you been exposed to "teaching" that seemed right by the world's standard but did not match up with the Bible? If yes, what was it?

109. Where have you interpreted the Bible through your own experiences rather than interpreting your experiences through what the Bible says about them?
110. What can you practically do to be sure the teaching you receive is Biblically accurate? What steps will you take to test such teaching?

Day 13 (1 John 4:7-13).

Reminder: Biblical love is doing what is in the best interest of a person, according to the Bible, no matter the cost and with no strings attached.

111. From 1 John 4:7, why as a believer are you to love another?

112. If a person's character (i.e., his nature, or habit of living) is unloving, what does verse 8 say about such person?

113. 1 John 4:7-9 explains that we can only love as defined above if we have accepted Christ as Savior and Lord and as a result, Jesus' Spirit lives in us and His love is manifested through us. How was God's love shown to us (see verse 10)?

114. Review: What does the term “propitiation” mean (see the definition from Day 4 of this study)?
115. What should our response be to God’s love toward us (verse 11)?
116. How do verses 12 and 13 explain the answer to the previous question?
117. Is there currently a relationship where you have significant room to grow in loving the other person as Christ loved you? How can you in submission to Jesus love that person better? Be specific in words and actions.

Day 14 (1 John 4:14- 21).

118. The "we" in verses 14-16 refers to John and the other apostles and firsthand observers of Jesus. From these verses what does John say is true about this group of "we"?

Explanation: Much of John's letter is intended to refute Gnosticism and the Gnostics of his day. Gnostics claimed to possess a higher knowledge, not from the Scriptures, but acquired on some mystical higher plane of existence. Gnostics see themselves as a privileged class elevated above everybody else by their higher, deeper knowledge of God. On the matter of salvation, Gnosticism teaches that salvation is gained through the acquisition of divine knowledge which frees one from the illusions of darkness. Although they claim to follow Jesus Christ and His original teachings, Gnostics contradict Him at every turn. Jesus said nothing about salvation through knowledge, but by faith in Him as Savior from sin. From <https://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-gnosticism.html>

119. John was challenging his readers to think, "are you going to believe us who were witnesses to Jesus or the Gnostics of the day"? What was a foundational truth John stated a true believer would believe (verse 15)?

120. God's love for us, demonstrated by Jesus' life, sacrificial death for our sins and resurrection, is said to be perfected with us in verse 17. What do you think that means?
121. The Greek phrase translated "is perfected" means to accomplish its purpose or to complete. If God's love demonstrated by the cross of Christ has accomplished its purpose, why can a believer have confidence in the day of judgement (verse 17)?
122. Based upon the questions above and your answers, how would you explain the meaning of verse 18?
123. If you have professed faith in Jesus as your Savior and Lord, do you have any fear of the day of Judgment? Why or why not?

124. From verse 19, how are you able to love like Jesus loved the world?

125. Bonus questions for husbands. Marriage is designed to be a picture of the relationship between Jesus and His Church, with husbands being a picture of Christ to the church and the wives modeling what the Church should be under Christ (**see *Ephesians 5:31-32***). Based upon verse 19, who should be the initiator of sacrificial, Christ-like love in a marriage?

a. Husbands, how can you grow (specifically) in being an initiator in Christ-like love for your wife?

b. Ask your wife, how can you grow (specifically) in being an initiator in Christ-like love for your wife? Write her answer below.

c. Husbands, when you have conflict with your wife, do you seek to be the initiator of reconciliation regardless of who you think was "at fault"? If not, why not? Confess this sin to God and ask for His help.

d. Husbands, do you proactively look for ways to perform sacrificial acts of love and service for your wife? Write down 3 ways you could do that this week.

126. John closes Chapter 4 with this truth. You can't say you love God (who you can't see) while at the same time hating your brother who you can see. Those 2 things are inconsistent. Are you currently stating you love God but hating a Christian brother or sister by withholding something good from him/her? If yes, what would repentance look like? Will you repent this week?

Chapter 5

Day 15 (1 John 5:1-12).

127. 1 John 5:1 repeats one of John's summaries that if you believe and confess Jesus is the Christ (Messiah) you have been born of God. Then John says whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. Why do you think that is true? See John 14:9.

128. 1 John 5:2-3 also includes summaries that John has already mentioned, but one additional statement is made for the first time in this letter. What is it?

129. Does keeping God's commandments ever seem burdensome to you? If yes, give examples.

130. The Bible is God's Word, so it is authoritative and without error. If it is true that God's commands are not burdensome, what thinking, attitudes or desires on your part make it seem that keeping God's commands is hard or annoying?
131. Think about a balance scale. If God's commands are not burdensome or heavy on one side of the scale, what on the other side of the scale must outweigh the weight of obedience?
132. In verse 5, the "world" refers to a world opposed to the Kingdom of God that is under the authority of Satan who seeks to kill and destroy. Why does belief in Jesus overcome the world?

Jay Adams explains that the Gnostics at the time would never combine the names Jesus and Christ (see 1 John 5:6). The Gnostics believed Jesus was only a man, and that "the Christ" only came upon Jesus at Jesus' baptism and then left Him before the cross. The Gnostics refused to identify Jesus and the Christ as one.

133. What three things testified to Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God?

134. When did the Spirit of God testify that Jesus was the Son of God? (see Matthew 3:17; Matthew 17:5).

135. When men or a "religious" sect say Jesus is not the Son of God, what are they saying about God (who testified differently)?

136. From verses 11-12, what distinguishes whether or not a person has eternal life?

Day 16 (1 John 5:13-21).

137. Why did John say he wrote this letter?

138. As you look back on 1 John and your answers to these questions, do you know you have eternal life? What are the assurances that you have based upon 1 John (write them below)?

139. If we have eternal life, what is the boldness we can have before the Father (verses 14-15)?

140. The only requirement for bold prayer is it that it be according to God's will. How has God revealed His will to the believer?

Explanation: There are certain promises in the Scripture that God has made such that we know He will answer "yes" when we pray. For example, Romans 8:28-29 God has promised to work all things to conform the believer to the image of Jesus. When we pray that God will do that for us, He will do it (see other absolute promises such as Matthew 6:25-33; 1 Corinthians 10:13). We also see in Scripture that other things are important to God such as widows, orphans and the lonely (James 1:27; Psalm 68:6). Yet, the Bible does not contain absolute promises of how or what God will do in every circumstance.

141. In verse 16, the reference to a sin leading to death does not refer to a particular sin but to a habitual pattern of sin by a believer ("brother") that God ultimately disciplines by physical death in order to purify the Church. If you know of a brother or sister who is habitually sinning, what should your response be?

The Scottish preacher, Haratius Bonar pointed at that in verse 16, the verse says if you see a brother committing a sin not leading to death, you should pray/ask God to grant repentance. In the second case of a brother committing a sin leading to death, a different term is used meaning "ask about" (as opposed to "ask for"). Bonar's point was that we should not spend time in idle curiosity or gossip about others' sin. If we are going to talk about sin, let it be to God.

142. As John is concluding this letter what are the three (3) "we know" statements in verse 18?

143. We know that as believers we will continue to sin in this life (otherwise 1 John 1:8-9 would not be necessary), so how would you explain the statement: "no one who is born of God sins"? Note the ESV translate this phrase as "everyone who has been born of God, does not keep on sinning."

144. What truths do we know from verses 19-20?

145. Are there any "truths" in verse 18-20 that you struggle to believe? Write them down below. If so, will you discuss them with a pastor, elder or biblical counselor this week?

146. What warning does John leave you with in verse 21?

Explanation: Idolatry is when we leave God as the source of something good and try to satisfy our "idolatrous" desire through someone or something else (the idol) (Jeremiah 2:11-13). Our idols and idolatrous desires will hinder our love and devotion to the true God.

147. Is there something you want more than pleasing God? Will you sin to get it? Will you sin if you don't get it? Do you think you can't be happy and content without it?

148. If you answered yes, will you ask God to forgive you of your sin of idolatry and ask God to help you make loving Him and loving others more important? Write out your prayer below. (You are encouraged to read ***Idolatry, A Dangerous Exchange***, by Lisa Anderson. <https://cfcjax.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/idolatry-a-dangerous-exchange-lisa-anderson.pdf>)

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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