

1 John

Chapter 5, Verses 1-12

General Introduction

- One of the five Johannine books
 - Written around the end of the First Century
 - Traditionally associated with the Apostle John
- One of the three Johannine Letters
 - 1 John is not an ordinary letter
- It has been described as a sermon which takes the Gospel of John as its text (Plummer).

General Introduction

- In any case, 1 John is an “exhortation,” by someone who understands himself to have substantial pastoral authority, addressed to a group of Christian believers, regarding certain issues:
 - Doctrinal
 - Moral
 - Social

Review

- The author identifies himself as one of those who had seen, heard, and touched Jesus Christ during his time on earth, and then proclaimed the message which they had received from Jesus, namely that God is perfect. **(1:1-5)**
- We all have sin. But if we confess our sins, because of Christ's blood shed for us, God forgives our sins, cleanses us from all unrighteousness, and we come to obey his commandments and live Christ-like lives. **(1:6-2:6)**

Review

- This is the same message spoken from the beginning to these Christians to whom John writes. They have been anointed by the Holy Spirit, they continue to believe that Jesus is the Christ, and they truly belong to God. For them therefore, hatred of the brothers and love of the world are no longer permissible, or even possible. John writes not to tell them anything new, but to keep them from being deceived by those, whom he calls “antichrists,” who have gone out from them. **(2:7-17, 20-21, 24-27)**

Review

- It is because the world is in its final hour that many have gone out from them, thus revealing that they were never part of the Church to begin with. They deny that Jesus is the Christ and thus deny the Father also. **(2:18-19, 22-23)**
- Christians already are Children of God. When Christ returns, this will become apparent to everyone. It is because we hope for this that we purify ourselves, so that we will not be ashamed when he returns. **(2:28-3:3)**

Review

- Christians ***should*** love one another and because we ***do*** love one another, we know we will live forever. Those who make a practice of sinning, and who do not love their brothers, are children of the devil, bound to die. **(3:4-15)**
- Christians ***know*** love because Christ laid down his life for us, and we ***ought*** to do the same for the brothers. Love is not a matter of talk but of deed and truth. Our acts of genuine compassion reassure us that we are children of God. Such assurance enables us to pray for things that please God, so God gives us what we ask for. **(3:16-22)**

Review

- God's commandment is that we believe in the name of his son Jesus Christ and love one another. We who do this, live in God, God lives in us... and we *know* that God lives in us by the Spirit whom God has given us. **(3:23-24)**

Review

- God's commandment is that we believe in the name of his son Jesus Christ and love one another. We who do this, live in God, God lives in us... and we know that God lives in us by the *Spirit* whom God has given us. **(3:23-24)**

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- God's commandment is that we believe in the name of his son Jesus Christ and love one another. We who do this, live in God, God lives in us... and we know that God lives in us by the *Spirit* whom God has given us. **(3:23-24)**



Holy Spirit

- But not everyone who *claims* to have the Spirit of God is telling the truth. **(4:1)**

Review

- Everyone who truly is of God, confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh; everyone who does not confess Jesus, is not from God. **(4:2-3)**
- The people to whom John is writing do believe the Apostles' testimony concerning Jesus. This proves that they are from God, that they have overcome the world, and that the Spirit of truth abides in them. They must love one another, because love is from God. **(4:4,6,7)**

Review

- False prophets reject the Apostles' testimony concerning Christ. This proves that they are not from God but are from the world, and that the spirit of error resides in them. Furthermore those who do not love, prove that they do not know God, because God is love. **(4:5-6, 8)**
- Christians do know that God is love because he sent his beloved son into the world to die in our place, so that we might live. Because God so loved us, we ought to love one another. As we do love one another, God lives in us and his love is perfected in us. **(4:9-12)**

Review (Last Week's Lesson)

- Christians have received the Spirit of God. We believe and proclaim what the Apostles have seen and testified: that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Thus we know the love that God has for us and we are united with God in this bond of love. **(4:13-16)**
- While we remain in this world, our loving union with God (and for one another) is perfected, so that we may have confidence on Judgment Day. **(4:17-21)**

1 John 5:1-5

5:1すべてイエスのキリストであることを信じる者は、神から生れた者である。すべて生んで下さったかたを愛する者は、そのかたから生れた者をも愛するのである。

5:2神を愛してその戒めを行えば、それによってわたしたちは、神の子たちを愛していることを知るのである。

1 John 5:1-5

5:3神を愛するとは、すなわち、その戒めを守ることである。そして、その戒めはむずかしいものではない。

5:4なぜなら、すべて神から生れた者は、世に勝つかからである。そして、わたしたちの信仰こそ、世に勝たしめた勝利の力である。

5:5世に勝つ者はだれか。イエスを神の子と信じる者ではないか。

1 John 5:1-5

¹ 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.

1 John 5:1-5

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?

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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.

- Only those born of God believe that Jesus is the Christ.

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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.

- Only those born of God believe that Jesus is the Christ.
- Therefore such belief proves that one is born of God.

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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.

- God is the Father of all who have been born of Him.

1 John 5:1

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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.

- God is the Father of all who have been born of Him.
- All of God's children love God

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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**.

- God is the Father of all who have been born of Him.
- All of God's children love God.
- All of God's children love one another.

Discussion

- John says that **all** of God's children love one another.

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- Therefore in order to know if I am a child of God, I must know whether I love all of God's (other) children.

Discussion

- John says that all of God's children love one another.
- Therefore in order to know if I am a child of God, I must know whether I love all of God's children.
- How can I know this?

1 John 5:2

神を愛してその戒めを行えば、それによってわたしたちは、神の子たちを愛していることを知るのである。

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

1 John 5:2

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By this we know that we love the children of God, *when we love God* and obey his commandments.

- John says that it is our love of God

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By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God **and obey his commandments.**

- John says that it is our love of God and our obedience to God

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- John says that it is our love of God and our obedience to God which reveal to us that we love the children of God.

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- John says that it is our love of God and our obedience to God which reveal to us that we love the children of God.
- To his children who love him, in other words, the sum of God's commandments is that they must love one another.

1 John 5:3

神を愛するとは、すなわち、その戒めを守ることである。そして、その戒めはむずかしいものではない。

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

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- This offers additional explanation of what went before.

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For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

- This offers additional explanation of what went before.
- **Our love of God and our love for one another cannot be separated**, because love of God and obedience of God's commandments cannot be separated.

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- John goes on to say that our obedience of God's commandments is not burdensome to us.

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For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. **And his commandments are not burdensome.**

- John goes on to say that our obedience of God's commandments is not burdensome to us.
- This means that it is **not a burden for us to love our brothers and sisters** in obedience to God whom we love.

Comment

- Here is how I think we are supposed to understand this:

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 - Whenever you perceive that loving your brothers and sisters is a burden to you, then you do not love them.

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 - What is impossible is truly to love someone and perceive such love as a burden.

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 - Whenever you perceive that loving your brothers and sisters is a burden to you, then you do not love them.
 - What is impossible is truly to love someone and perceive such love as a burden.
 - In still other words, we can not love any of our brothers or sisters against our will, any more than we can love God against our will.

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 - In still other words, we can not love any of our brothers or sisters against our will, any more than we can love God against our will. Either we love or we do not!
 - This is the love that God is perfecting in us. (4:12)

1 John 5:4

なぜなら、すべて神から生れた者は、世に勝つからである。そして、わたしたちの信仰こそ、世に勝たしめた勝利の力である。

For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world---our faith.

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For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world---our faith.

- It is impossible for those who are of the world to love in the way that God commands.

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For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world---our faith.

- It is impossible for those who are of the world to love in the way that God commands.
- But God's children are not of the world, but overcome it.

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For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. **And this is the victory that has overcome the world---our faith.**

- It is impossible for those who are of the world to love in the way that God commands.
- But God's children are not of the world, but overcome it.
- What separates us from the world is our faith in Christ.

1 John 5:5

世に勝つ者はだれか。イエスを神の子と信じる者ではないか。

Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

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Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

- There is no way to overcome the world and love as God commands, except to believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

Comment

- Our faith in Christ includes faith in the whole process whereby God regenerates us by his indwelling Spirit, forgives the sins which we confess because of the price paid by Christ on the cross, the Spirit leads us into an increasingly holy life and on to final perfection and a blessed eternal life.

Comment

- Our faith in Christ includes faith in the whole process whereby God regenerates us by his indwelling Spirit, forgives the sins which we confess because of the price paid by Christ on the cross, the Spirit leads us into an increasingly holy life and on to final perfection and a blessed eternal life.
- Only such a faith can such a process.

Comment

- Our faith in Christ includes faith in the whole process whereby God regenerates us by his indwelling Spirit, forgives the sins which we confess because of the price paid by Christ on the cross, the Spirit leads us into an increasingly holy life and on to final perfection and a blessed eternal life.
- Only such a faith can undergo such a process.
- Those who remain in the world cannot begin the process, much less sustain it.

1 John 5:6-12

5:6このイエス・キリストは、水と血とをとおってこられたかたである。水によるだけではなく、水と血とによってこられたのである。そのあかしをするものは、御霊である。御霊は真理だからである。

5:7あかしをするものが、三つある。

5:8御霊と水と血とである。そして、この三つのものは一致する。

1 John 5:6-12

5:9わたしたちは人間のあかしを受けいれるが、しかし、神のあかしはさらにまさっている。神のあかしというのは、すなわち、御子について立てられたあかしである。

5:10神の子を信じる者は、自分のうちにこのあかしを持っている。神を信じない者は、神を偽り者とする。神が御子についてあかしせられたそのあかしを、信じていないからである。

1 John 5:6-12

5:11 そのあかしとは、神が永遠のいのちをわたしたちに賜わり、かつ、そのいのちが御子のうちにあるということである。

5:12 御子を持つ者はいのちを持ち、神の御子を持たない者はいのちを持っていない。

1 John 5:6-12

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.

1 John 5:6-12

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.

1 John 5:6-12

¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

1 John 5:6

このイエス・キリストは、水と血とをとおってこられたかたである。水によるだけではなく、水と血とによってこられたのである。そのあかしをするものは、御霊である。御霊は真理だからである。

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.

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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.

- This continues the thought begun in the preceding verse, that one who would overcome the world must begin by believing that Jesus is the Son of God.

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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.

- In describing the Son of God, John is at pains to emphasize that Jesus came by both the water and the blood and not by the water only.

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- In describing the Son of God, John is at pains to emphasize that Jesus came by both the water and the blood and not by the water only.

Comment

- There has been much discussion over many centuries regarding what John means to say here in the first sentence of Verse 6.
- Some looks back to the Old Testament where so many rituals made use of water (for cleansing) and blood (for atonement) and see Christ as the one who fulfills and perfects and puts and end to all of that.

Comment

- Some look back to John 19:34 where John so carefully recorded the piercing of Jesus side as he hung dead on the cross and the outpouring of blood and water which flowed out from the wound.
- Some notice that John has here, in 1 John, reversed the order --- i.e. naming water first and blood second --- and speculate that this was to correspond with the order in which Jesus was baptized and later crucified.

Comment

- Some focus on the fact that John appears to be engaged in a Christological or Soteriological argument in which it is important to remind his readers of the importance of “the blood.”
 - This could be to offset claims by someone that Jesus had not really been both God and Man.
 - That he had not really suffered and died,
 - That his death was not really necessary for our salvation.
 - Etc. It is hard to know the other side of the argument.

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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.**

- In any case, it is certain that John wants us to contemplate the person and the work of Christ correctly and fully, and remind us that this what the Holy Spirit helps us to do.

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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.**

- The Holy Spirit is the one who enables us to hear and believe the testimony of the Apostles concerning Christ and who uses this testimony to bring us to saving faith.

1 John 5:7

あかしをするものが、三つある。

For there are three that testify:

1 John 5:7

あかしをするものが、三つある。

For there are three that testify:

- Remember what the object of this testimony: that Jesus is the Christ (5:1) the Son of God (5:5)

1 John 5:7

あかしをするものが、三つある。

For there are three that testify:

- Remember what the object of this testimony: that Jesus is the Christ (5:1) the Son of God (5:5)
- John wants us to understand that such testimony comes from three witnesses.

1 John 5:8

御霊と水と血とである。そして、この三つのものは一致する。

the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

1 John 5:8

御霊と水と血とである。そして、この三つのものは一致する。

the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

- One of the witnesses to the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, has just been named --- i.e. the Spirit.

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the Spirit and *the water* and *the blood*; and these three agree.

- One of the witnesses to the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, has just been named --- i.e. the Spirit.
- But there is also the water and the blood.

1 John 5:8

御霊と水と血とである。そして、この三つのものは一致する。

the Spirit and *the water* and *the blood*; and *these three agree*.

- The historical facts of the person and work of Jesus while on earth (marked by the water and the blood) agree with the truths communicated by the Holy Spirit.

1 John 5:9

わたしたちは人間のあかしを受けいれるが、しかし、神のあかしはさらにまさっている。神のあかしというのは、すなわち、御子について立てられたあかしである。

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.

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わたしたちは人間のあかしを受けいれるが、しかし、神のあかしはさらにまさっている。神のあかしというのは、すなわち、御子について立てられたあかしである。

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.**

- All of these things --- i.e. the person and work of Christ and the testimony of the Holy Spirit constitute Gods own testimony concerning his Son.

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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.**

- Why would we not believe the gospel of Jesus Christ as testified by the God in so many ways?

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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.

- Why would we not believe the gospel of Jesus Christ as testified by the God in so many ways?
- We are perfectly willing to trust the testimony of men regarding so many things, both spiritual and mundane.

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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.

- Surely the testimony of God is greater.

1 John 5:10

神の子を信じる者は、自分のうちにこのあかしを持っている。神を信じない者は、神を偽り者とする。神が御子についてあかしせられたそのあかしを、信じていないからである。

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.

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- God gives testimony concerning his son.

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- God gives testimony concerning his son.
- Some do not believe it and, thereby in effect, treat God as if he were a liar.

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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.

- Those who believe God's testimony, internalize it, and are changed by it.

1 John 5:11

そのあかしとは、神が永遠のいのちをわたしたちに賜わり、かつ、そのいのちが御子のうちにあるということである。

And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

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- The testimony of God which lives within those who believe it, is that we will not die.

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And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this **life is in his Son.**

- The testimony of God which lives within those who believe it, is that we will not die.
- We will enter into eternal life.
- This life is connected to God's Son.

1 John 5:12

御子を持つ者はいのちを持ち、神の御子を持たない者はいのちを持っていない。

Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

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- This says it all.

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Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

- This says it all.
- Our life depends on our relationship with Jesus Christ, the Son of God.