

# 1 John

Chapter 5, Verses 13-21

# 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 (Apostolic) 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)**
- Christians all have sin. But if we confess our sins, because of Christ's blood shed for us, God forgives us, cleanses us from all unrighteousness, and increasingly we 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

- Those who make a practice of sinning, and who do not love their brothers, are children of the devil, bound to die. Christians should practice righteousness and love one another and because we do, we know we will live forever. **(3:4-15)**
- Christians know love because Christ laid down his life for us. 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 and give us confidence before him. **(3:16-21)**

# Review

- God gives us whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. **(3:22)**
- 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)**
- 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

- 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)**

# Review (Last Week's Lesson)

- Those who believe that Jesus is the Christ, are children of God; they love God and obey his command, including his command that they love one another and this command is not a burden to them, because through faith in Christ they have overcome the world. **(5:1-5)**
- Our faith arises from the testimony of the Holy Spirit, who testifies concerning the person and the work of Christ, as set forth in the Bible. Those who believe this testimony have eternal life; those who do not believe do not have life. **(5:6-12)**

# 1 John 5:13-17

**5:13** これらのことをあなたがたに書きおくれたのは、神の子の御名を信じるあなたがたに、永遠のいのちを持っていることを、悟らせるためである。

**5:14** わたしたちが神に対していただいている確信は、こうである。すなわち、わたしたちが何事でも神の御旨に従って願い求めるなら、神はそれを聞きいれて下さるということである。

# 1 John 5:13-17

**5:15**そして、わたしたちが願い求めることは、なんでも聞きいれて下さるとわかれば、神に願い求めたことはすでにかなえられたことを、知るのである。

**5:16**もしだれかが死に至ることのない罪を犯している兄弟を見たら、神に願い求めなさい。そうすれば神は、死に至ることのない罪を犯している人々には、いのちを賜わるであろう。死に至る罪がある。これについては、願い求めよ、とは言わない。

**5:17**不義はすべて、罪である。しかし、死に至ることのない罪もある。

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<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

<sup>15</sup> 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.

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<sup>16</sup> 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.

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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.

- This probably looks back over the whole letter to this point and marks the beginning of the concluding section.
- Again we see that these things have been written to a group of people who already believe.

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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.

- **What** they believe is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

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- What they believe is the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- His **reason** for writing (one of them anyway) is to make sure they understand that they do (already) have eternal life.

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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.**

- What they believe is the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- His reason for writing (one of them anyway) is to make sure they understand that they do (already) have eternal life. **So do we!!**

## 1 John 5:14

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And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

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- It is not clear, grammatically, whether John is referring to their confidence toward the Father or the Son.
- Theologically it makes no difference.
- Confidence in one requires confidence in the other.

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- Likewise the will of the Father and the will of the Son is one and the same.

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- He has just said (v. 13) that his reason for writing to these believers is so they will know that they have eternal life.
- One feature of our eternal life, John seems to say, is that God “hears” everything we ask according to his will.

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And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

- That God hears anything we ask according to his will is a very great comfort.
- That God hear **only** what we ask according to his will (and not our foolish and sinful requests) is also a comfort.

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そして、わたしたちが願い求めることは、なんでも聞きいれて下さるとわかれば、神に願い求めたことはすでになえられたことを、知るのである。

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- Within the context of our eternal life, everything happens according to the will of God.
- Therefore **everything** we ask in accordance with his will, is not only “heard” by God but, also, **is granted** by him!

## 1 John 5:16

もしだれかが死に至ることのない罪を犯している兄弟を見たら、神に願い求めなさい。そうすれば神は、死に至ることのない罪を犯している人々には、いのちを賜わるであろう。死に至る罪がある。これについては、願い求めよ、とは言わない。

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- John has just said that God will hear and grant anything his children ask in accordance with his will.
- He then reminds us of what may be foremost in God's will.

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- His first thought is prayers for the forgiveness of sins.
- And not (only) for our own sins, but for the **sins of a brother!**

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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.

- The central thought here is that a Christian may ask God to forgive his “brother” who is committing a sin and God will (forgive that brother’s sin and) give life to that brother.



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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.

- Here I believe John understands the word “brother” to mean “neighbor” or “fellow human being” which could include but is not limited only to fellow Christian believers.

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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.**

- I say this because John contemplates the possibility of a “brother” committing sins leading to death, and this is not possible for the true believers to whom John is writing.

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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.

- But it has been made very clear that even true believers, who already have eternal life, still do have sins which need to be confessed and repented of.

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All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

- Thus we understand that everybody sins --- both Christians and non-Christians --- but that for Christians there is forgiveness for sins and therefore eternal life, whereas for non-Christians all sin leads ultimately to death.

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- Therefore when we see someone sinning, our prayer should be first for conversion and, then, for confession and repentance of sin.

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- Therefore when we see someone sinning, our prayer should be first for conversion and, then, for confession and repentance of sin.

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- The sin which leads to death, is the sin which remains unforgiven --- but any sin can be forgiven in Christ.
- The sin which is unforgiven, then, is the sin which is committed by someone who rejects Christ.
- Therefore when we see someone sinning, our prayer should be first for conversion and, then, for confession and repentance of sin.
- It would be strange to ask God to forgive a brother for rejecting Christ *per se*.

# Discussion

- Having said all of this, I believe that the cases in which God might prefer that we **not** pray for a brother are very rare and, as a practical matter, we should err on the side of hope for our brothers.

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- Having said all of this, I believe that the cases in which God might prefer that we **not** pray for a brother are very rare and, as a practical matter, we should err on the side of hope for our brothers.
- The Bible gives us the examples of Peter and Paul!

# 1 John 5:18-21

**5:18**すべて神から生れた者は罪を犯さないことを、わたしたちは知っている。神から生れたかたが彼を守っていて下さるので、悪しき者が手を触れるようなことはない。

**5:19**また、わたしたちは神から出た者であり、全世界は悪しき者の配下にあることを、知っている。

# 1 John 5:18-21

**5:20** さらに、神の子がきて、真実なかたを知る知力をわたしたちに授けて下さったことも、知っている。そして、わたしたちは、真実なかたにおり、御子イエス・キリストにおるのである。このかたは真実な神であり、永遠のいのちである。

**5:21** 子たちよ。気をつけて、偶像を避けなさい。

# 1 John 5:18-21

<sup>18</sup> 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.

<sup>19</sup> We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

<sup>20</sup> 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.



# 1 John 5:18-21

<sup>21</sup> Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

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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.

- The prayers of believers in Christ for conversion and repentance of “brothers” are heard and granted by God.

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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.

- The prayers of believers in Christ for conversion and repentance of “brothers” are heard and granted by God.
- All who come to believe will gradually turn away from sin.

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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.

- The prayers of believers in Christ for conversion and repentance of “brothers” are heard and granted by God.
- All who come to believe will gradually turn away from sin.
- Christ himself is our savior but also our protector!

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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.**

- Satan cannot fatally or ultimately damage us.

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**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.

- Satan cannot fatally or ultimately damage us.
- All of these are things that “we know.”

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- All of these are things that “we know.”
- This goes beyond “hope” or “reasonable certainty”
- It includes John’s readers in the Apostolic Community!

# 1 John 5:19

また、わたしたちは神から出た者であり、全世界は悪しき者の配下にあることを、知っている。

We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

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## 1 John 5:20

さらに、神の子がきて、真実なかたを知る知力をわたしたちに授けて下さったことも、知っている。そして、わたしたちは、真実なかたにおり、御子イエス・キリストにおるのである。このかたは真実な神であり、永遠のいのちである。

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.

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- This looks back to the first few verses of this letter and incorporates everything in between.
- The key to it all is recognizing the Son of God.



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- The Apostolic Church knows that the Son of God has come but the world does not accept this fact.

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- In and through Christ, only the Church knows the true God.

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- Grammatically it is unclear whether John means to say that the one who is true God and eternal life is the Father or his Son Jesus Christ. Either reference would be true.

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Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

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- Anything which obscures Christ is an idol.