

## The First Epistle of John

- I. Background:
  - A. Author is the Apostle John
    - 1. Speaks with Spiritual Authority
    - 2. Places himself among the eyewitnesses of the incarnate life of Christ
    - 3. There are several references and themes back to the Gospel of John
  - B. Audience:
    - 1. Roman province of Asia (Western Turkey)
    - 2. They are definitely Christian believers
  - C. Purpose:
    - 1. Warn against many false teachers outside the church
    - 2. Strongly encourage believers to live lives of obedience to God
    - 3. And to Love one another
    - 4. Fellowship with God the Father, Son and Spirit is the means to living a holy life. (holy - sanctified - set apart)
- II. Outline of the Epistle: Used the Bible Knowledge Commentary for this outline
  - A. Introduction (1:1-4)
  - B. Basic Principles (1:5-2:11)
    - 1. Of Fellowship (1:5 - 2:2)
    - 2. Of Knowing God (2:3 - 11)
  - C. Purpose of the Epistle (2:12 - 27)
    - 1. In light of the readers Spiritual Condition (2:12 - 14)
    - 2. In light of the temptation of the World (2:15 - 17)
    - 3. In light of the deceptions of the last hour (2:18-23)
    - 4. In light of our calling to abide (2:24-27)
  - D. The body of the Epistle
    - 1. Theme (2:28) - Continue in Him
    - 2. Discerning the children of God (2:29 - 3:10)
    - 3. Discerning love for the body of Christ (3:10 - 23)
      - a) What love is not (3:10 - 15)
      - b) What love is (3:16 - 18)
      - c) What love does for believers (3:19 - 23)
    - 4. Discerning the indwelling God (3:24 - 4:16)
      - a) The Spirit of Truth (3:24 - 4:6)
      - b) The God of Love (4:7 - 4:16)
    - 5. Realization of the Theme (4:17 - 19)
  - E. Conclusion (4:20 - 5:17)

1. Love clarified (4:20 - 5:3)
2. Love empowered (5:3 - 15)
3. Love practiced (5:16 - 17)

F. Closing (5:18 - 21)

III. Introduction: (1:1 - 4)

A. **1.** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. **2** The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. **3** We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. **4** We write this to make our joy complete.

B. The prologue or introduction is providing witness to the Incarnation of Christ.

1. This is to rebuke false teachers, from the time of Christ's ministry to today, who have denied the deity of Christ. (Chap 2:18)

C. And this calls the believer to fellowship with the Father and the Son

1. We will see as we go that this is accomplished through right orientation with the Spirit.

D. **Vs. 1.** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life

1. John is establishing his position as a witness to the incarnation of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.
2. That which was from the beginning (greek word means origin)
  - a) This is establishing that what John is talking about is God.
3. John is saying, not just me but we (multiple witnesses) can provide true witness about what is to come because we didn't just hear about this
  - a) We heard Him directly
  - b) We saw Him with our own two eyes
  - c) And we touched His physical body.
4. The Word of Life
  - a) Can be understood one of two ways.
  - b) The Word - No qualifier (of Life) -
    - (1) And in context of John's first epistle:
    - (2) Turn and Read John 1:1- 5 - **1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was

God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. **4** In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome<sup>[a]</sup> it.

c) Or The word of life (message) -

d) Phil 2:14 -16 Do everything without grumbling or arguing, **15** so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.”<sup>[c]</sup> Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky **16** as you hold firmly to the word of life.

e) Hold out the word of life (the message of the gospel)

5. In context, I read this as The Word of Life (Jesus Christ)

6. John is setting up his foundation for what he is about to proclaim about The Word of Life - Jesus the Christ

E. Vs 2: The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

1. The life appeared: The incarnation of Christ.

a) This life appeared.

(1) Christ was with the Father, but left heaven to be made lower than the angels.

(2) Christ is the eternal life (flip to 5:20)

b) John is clearly calling out the incarnation of Jesus Christ.

He has seen it himself and testifies that the Christ, the Son of God, has come to earth as man to provide eternal life.

2. John knows these are believers he is writing to but how quickly can believers be deceived by false teaching. Look at the church in the US today.

F. Vs **3** We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

1. Again “we” is used. Who is he referring to? Seeing how he says in vs 1 “we heard, saw, touched” he is referring to the apostles.

2. John is teaching these believers to not be swayed from the truth by false teachers. Deviating from the truth will break fellowship with not only fellow believers but relationship with God.

3. Moving away from basic truths can cause doubt throughout your whole biblical foundation.

a) If Jesus is not God,

- b) Then how did he pay for my sins,
  - c) If my sins are not paid for, then am I saved...
4. For clarity, as we move through this epistle, we have to keep coming back to a couple of foundational points.
- a) These are born again saved Christians, he is writing to
    - (1) 2:12 - I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.
  - b) As believers, they cannot lose their salvation.
    - (1) John 6:**38** For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. **39** And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. **40** For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."
  - c) This is about walking in the light (experiential sanctification)
    - (1) 1John 1:**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, purifies us from all sin.
- G. Vs. **4** We write this to make our joy complete.
- 1. This is extremely personal for John. To see his congregation build a relationship with God the Father and the Son as well as with each other, what a complete joy.
    - a) If we as believers who know many of these things are not sharing these things with others and keeping them for our own knowledge, we are missing out on a blessing that God has designed for all of us.
    - b) To watch a believer over time begin to build a relationship with God and see them get it, to watch the worldly darkness go being overcome by the light shining bright in their hearts. What a joy.
    - c) Side Note: Y'all, this is not an impersonal thing. Contrary to some teaching, I don't believe there is such a thing as impersonal love.
      - (1) It should break our hearts and grieve us to the core when we see an unbeliever reject Christ and a believer walking in darkness.
  - 2. We can make our joy complete in the same way John did.

IV. Basic Principles: (1: 5- 2:11)

A. Two Basic Principles we will be covering in this section:

1. Basic Principle of Fellowship (1:5 - 2:2)
2. Basic Principle of Knowing God (2:3 - 11)

B. Basic Principle of Fellowship (1:5 - 2:2) **1John 1:5** This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. **6** If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out 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, purifies us from all sin. **8** If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

C. **1John 2: 1** My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. **2** He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

**1. 1John 1:5** This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

- a) John jumps right into the message:
- b) A message he heard from the Lord Jesus Christ himself ( see vs 1)

2. God is light, in Him there is no darkness at all

- a) **John 1:4** In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome<sub>a</sub> it.
- b) Additional verses: John 1: 7 - 9; 3:19-21; 9:5; 12:35-36, 46; Rev 21:23

3. God is Light:

- a) As the light, God exposes sin and condemns it

(1) **John 3:19** This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. **20** Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. **21** But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

- (2) We walk in the light when we live by the truth
  - (a) Living by the truth:
  - (b) John 17:17 - Sanctify them by <sup>d</sup> the truth; your word is truth.
  - (c) **John 8:12** When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
  - (d) Living in obedience to the Word.
  - (e) This can only be done through trusting the Spirit's leading. Col 2:6
- b) In Him, there is no darkness - The divine nature of God - God's Holiness
  - (1) John is declaring the character of God, Holy, Righteous
    - (a) God's justice reveals sin and condemns sin
  - (2) His mercy sent his Son, to take our place in the payment of sin. His mercy did not set his justice aside. The penalty had to be paid. God condemns sin.
- c) God is Light, in Him there is no darkness
- 4. Vs 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.
  - a) Reminder: We are talking about believers. The audience has not changed so this is not a salvation/justification point.
  - b) This is a sanctification (believers set apart from sin in their daily walk point.
  - c) If God is light and reveals sin, there is no darkness (sin) in Him, Holy, Righteous, and he condemns sin, then we cannot have fellowship with God when we are walking in sin.
    - (1) Define Sin: Rom 14:23 Everything that does not come from faith is sin.
  - d) If we claim to have fellowship with God, but yet are not putting our faith in his Word and his Spirit, then we
    - (1) Are liars: We are trying to deceive others or ourselves.
    - (2) Do not live out the truth - We are not living in accordance with God's word. In obedience that comes from faith in the leading of the Spirit.=.

- e) This seems pretty straight forward, but how easy is it to think that
  - (1) We know a lot of doctrine so we are okay?
  - (2) We are generally a good person so we are okay?
  - (3) We are better than that person so we are okay?
- f) John addresses this shortly

Sunday Oct 2, 2022

Recap of last week:

Vs 1 - 4 Intro: John is witnessing to the fact of the Incarnation of Christ (the God Man) and to the message of the Gospel. He is speaking to believers and he is laying a foundation for having a relationship with God in our lives.

Now we are working on some Basic Principles of Fellowship with God.

Vs 5 - 6:

1 God is Light in Him there is no darkness (divine nature, perfect holiness and righteousness)

2. God exposes sin and lights our path. Psalm 119:105 Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

3 In Him there is no darkness (sin, imperfection). God is set apart from the darkness. By virtue of being light, he cannot be in relationship with darkness.

4. If we are in the darkness (denying our sin or living in sin), we cannot be in relationship with the God. What is sin? Anything not done in faith in God.

5 if we claim we are in relationship with God yet are denying our sin, then we are lying and don't have the truth (God's Word) in us.

So let's pick up here:

5. **Vs 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, purifies us from all sin.

a) Positionally, we are made righteous In Christ at the moment of salvation, but experientially, believers can choose to live their whole lives in the darkness.

b) But if we walk in the light: In contrast to walking in the darkness we have a choice to walk in the light

(1) This is a volitional choice.

(2) This is to believers not unbelievers.

(3) Only believers can walk in the light because only believers have been given the righteousness of God.

c) walk in the light

(1)

(2) Obey the leading of the Spirit

(a) This can only be done through putting our trust in the Holy Spirit. Col 2:6

(3) Live in obedience to the Word (God's will)

- (a) Which implies we know the Word
- (4) Remain in fellowship with God - This includes prayer
- d) As he (Jesus Christ) is in the light
  - (1) We can't match Christ's sinless perfection, but we can be obedient to the truth (walk in the light) through the power and leading of the Spirit.
- e) We have fellowship with one another
  - (1) "One another" is referencing the two parties from the beginning of the sentence "if we claim to have fellowship with him".
  - (2) One another is referring to we (believers) and him (God).
  - (3) Fellowship: association, community, communion
    - (a) There is a relationship aspect to this, an intimacy
- f) When we are walking in the light (sphere of righteousness, filled and submitting to the will of the Spirit, in faith) we have fellowship (an intimate communion) with God.
- g) And the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.
  - (1) God cleanses us at salvation. He will never bring us into condemnation for our sins. We receive forgiveness of all sins. (cf. **Romans 8:1**; **1 Corinthians 6:11**; **Ephesians 1:7**). - Positionally we are eternally sanctified in Christ.
  - (2) However, we need continual cleansing from the defilement that sinful daily living brings because it hinders our fellowship with God. Ref: Dr. Constables Expository Notes
  - (3) Jesus washing the feet of the disciples at the Last Supper.
    - (a) John 13:6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" **7** Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." **8** "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." **9** "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" **10** Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet;

their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.

(4) When we are walking in the light, we are cleansed from the daily sin in our lives because of the Christ's death (blood of Christ).

(5) When we are walking in the darkness (as believers), we are still saved from the penalty of sin (whole body is clean), but we have broken the relationship with God (our feet need washed).

(a) Positional Sanctification: We are set apart from the penalty of sin. - Enabled by Christ's work on the Cross

(b) Experiential Sanctification: We are set apart from the power of sin (walking in the light)

(i) Enabled by Christ's work on the Cross.

h) This is a moment by moment decision to trust (walk) with God. To trust him, to obey him, to follow him.

6. Vs .8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

a) First: We have a sin nature and we are totally depraved.

(1) That does not go away until we are face to face with our Lord. - Ultimate Sanctification: Set apart from the presence of sin.

(2) Even when we are walking in the light, we have a sin nature and the work of Christ has paid for us to be set free from that bondage.

(3) We are set apart from the power of the sin nature when we are walking in the Spirit but the OSN is still very much in our DNA.

b) Second: If we think that we have reached sinless perfection in our daily walk, we deceive ourselves.

(1) You would think this is an obvious statement, but how many of us deceive ourselves all the time.

(2) Let's remember that sin is anything that is not done in faith.

(3) Just because we are not committing some overt or mental sin, doesn't mean we are not in sin.

(a) Gossip, Jealousy, Arrogance, Laziness, Deceit,

(b) What about righteous anger: James 1:19-20.

(c) Ignoring the leading of the Spirit.

- (d) Doing good for our own glory.
- c) When the truth (God's Word) is in us, we will clearly see our own depravity
  - (1) The Spirit and the Word will convict us of sin even when we are not conscious of it.
  - (2) The Word points us to the power source for controlling our sin. The Spirit.
  - (3) The Spirit motivates us to walk in the light and to obey God's Word.
- d) If we are, at any time declaring ourselves to be without sin, then we are ignoring the Word of God.
- 7. So what do we do when we find ourselves in the darkness?
- 8. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.
  - a) If: If we confess our sins (and we should)
    - (1) In view of verse 7 and 8, God's light (truth, word) makes clear to us our sin nature and when we are in sin (walking in the darkness)
    - (2) And when we are in sin, we are to confess these failures pointed out to us by the conviction of the Spirit and the Word of God.
    - (3) Confess: The Greek word translated "confess" (*homologeō*) literally means to say the same thing (Thayers). Confessing therefore means saying about our sins what God says about them, namely, that they are indeed sins, offenses against Him that break our relationship.
      - (a) God calls on us to acknowledge, agree with Him, say the same thing about our breaking of faith (sins) in Him. That we have made an offense against Him.
      - (b) Some would say that we need to list our sins, or grieve our sins, feel sorry for them, promise to not do them again
      - (c) In the text, I don't see any requirement for making a list of specific sins, but I also don't see anything prohibiting it. I think that there can be a specific acknowledgment of what exactly was

done against God as part of acknowledging our offense.

- (d) In the same way, I don't see a requirement or prohibition against an emotional response when acknowledging our offense against God. If we commit an offense against someone that we dearly love, there would very likely be an emotional response to acknowledging that.
  - (e) I believe that we only diminish Christ's work on the cross when we think that listing, feeling sorry, or being emotional in some way increases the cleansing work that Christ has already accomplished.
  - (f) But what this verse is saying is that if we want to maintain a relationship with God, we need to understand that we are sinners, that we do fail and that when we fail, we need to acknowledge that failure and understand that we have committed an offense against the holy, righteous God.
  - (g) Only then can we turn back to God and place our faith in the Spirit thus begin walking again in the light.
- (4) Then: He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
- (a) As believers, why do we need to have forgiveness of sin if we received forgiveness of sin at salvation?
    - (i) Eph 1: 7 - **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace
  - (b) Positionally in Christ, we have received forgiveness of sin as part of our salvation.
    - (i) This is eternal.
  - (c) Experientially, we still defile ourselves through sin.
  - (d) We never lose our position in Christ, but we do break our relationship with God in time. We begin to walk in the darkness.

- (e) The only way for us to have a relationship with God is to walk in the Light with Him.
  - (f) When we are living in sin, a barrier is created between Righteous God and defiled, yet eternally saved man.
  - (g) If we don't accept that we are sinning against God, and return to walking in the light, then that relationship remains broken.
    - (i) We are being conformed to the world
  - (h) When we admit we are sinning against God (not trusting God) and go back to walking in the light (putting our trust in the Spirit), God is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
    - (i) His justice has already been satisfied by the work of Christ
    - (ii) Our sins are already forgiven
    - (iii) Based on this, when we put our faith back in Him, he is faithful to restore that relationship on the basis that we have been fully cleansed through Christ's work on the Cross
    - (iv) And since all sins are already forgiven (his justice is satisfied with the work of Christ), in His grace, he wipes away the defilement and we are welcome in his presence. (walking in the Light)
- b) Vs 10 Else: If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.
- (1) When the Spirit convicts us and yet we claim we are not sinning,
  - (2) We are calling God a liar
  - (3) God makes it really clear when we are following Him and trusting the Spirit and when we are not.
    - (a) For those with ears to hear and eyes to see.
    - (b) In today's culture, it is very easy to justify our actions with false doctrines of oneness and inclusion, but the Spirit is the one who directs our ways.

(c) We are sinners and if we choose to justify our own sin, then we are standing before God and calling Him a liar.

(d) Even if we have a ton of Doctrine and Bible knowledge, if we are not responding to the Spirit in faith, we are in sin, in the darkness.

(e) We can be Bible scholars and still walk in darkness.

9. **1John 2:1** My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. **2** He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

a) God's grace in providing a means of restoration should not be treated as a license to sin.

(1) The more sin abounds the more grace abounds.

(2) What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? **2** By no means!

b) Confession is not designed as a license to do what we want and then wash it all away with confession.

c) Also, knowing that we will all sin, is not a justification for choosing sin. There is no self justification for sin that stands before the judge.

d) How many of us have done this? We know full well that what we are about to do is a sin, but we rationalize it and do it anyway knowing that all we have to do is confess it and turn back to walking in the Spirit.

(1) I know that for a big part of my life, I used confession as a check the box to make sure what I did Saturday night was covered on Sunday Morning.

(2) I think that is one of the dangers of confession just being a listing of your sins.

(3) When I stand or kneel before God and acknowledge that what I did was an offense to my Savior and my heavenly Father, it should make me stop and think about the grace I have been given and the sacrifice Jesus made for me on the cross.

(4) It should be a motivation not to sin.

- e) We are called to live our life glorifying God in everything we do. If we are choosing sin and justifying the choice by knowing we can confess it away, then do we really understand the offense we are making against God or even more, do we recognize the sacrifice that Christ made for us?

10. So whether we blatantly choose to sin against God or we inadvertently sin and don't even know it, when we recognize that we are not walking by faith in the Spirit, Jesus Christ, is our advocate to the Father on our behalf. This is the same term (Paraketos) as is used about the Holy Spirit. He is our attorney, counselor, helper, counselor.

- a) Jesus Christ is sitting at the right hand of the Father.
- b) Jesus Christ is our high priest
- c) He intercedes on our behalf
  - (1) It's not that God the Father has forgotten we are forgiven, but every time we sin, the justice of God can look to His right and Christ can call out, they are mine Father.
  - (2) The justice is satisfied with the payment made and the sin is forgiven (work already accomplished on the cross)
- d) and just as Jesus prayed for his disciples, he advocates for us to the Father (John 17)
  - (1) That our faith will not falter.
  - (2) Protect us from the evil one
  - (3) Set us apart from the world (Sanctify)
  - (4) That we may be one as God the Father and Son are one (restore our relationship)

11. Vs. 2: On what basis can Christ advocate for us?

- a) He is the Righteous One
- b) Jesus paid the ransom for our sins
- c) And the sins of the whole world (unlimited atonement)
- d) He and only he was the acceptable sacrifice

12. So in closing this section: The basic principle of Fellowship summarized:

- a) Application Summary of vs 5 - 1 John 2:2:

- (1) In God there is no Darkness (sin) only Light (The Divine Nature of God)
- (2) As believers, we are to walk in the light in our daily lives by trusting the leading of the Spirit in all things.
- (3) When we move away from the light into darkness (through sin), our relationship with God is broken.
- (4) The Spirit and the Word will convict us of our sin.
- (5) We are to acknowledge that we are in sin and have committed an offense against God and go back to trusting the leading of the Spirit.
- (6) Because Christ already paid for all of our sins and we are forgiven, then God is faithful to restore our relationship with Him.
- (7) Confess, Repent, Trust...
  - (a) Each of these are a blessing provided by God's grace that a loving God has put in place for us to be restored to a relationship with Him.
  - (b) Every one of these things is done through the conviction and power of the Holy Spirit. This is not works but grace.
- (8) If we choose not to confess our sin and keep walking outside the light, we have no relationship with God.
- (9) Do not choose to sin, but know with confidence, that if we do sin, Christ has paid the price for all sin.

13. Let's read Psalm 51:

- a) David's Psalm after his affair with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah.

Sunday Oct 9, 2022

Quick Summary of 1 John so far:

- Intro: This epistle is focused on the reality of fellowship with God
- To have fellowship with God, we must walk in the light.
  - Recognize we are sinners
  - Acknowledge when we have sinned against God
  - Turn back to God by placing our faith in the Spirit and walking in the light.
  - Having the ability to repent, confess and be restored by faith, is not a reason to go on sinning.
  - We are called by God, not to sin. When we sin, it is always a sin against God.

V. The next Section is about the Basic Principles of Knowing God

A. **1John 2: 3** By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. **4** The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; **5** but whoever follows His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: **6** the one who says that he remains in Him ought, himself also, walk just as He walked.

B. The measure to which we know God is by the extent in which we keep is commands:

1. What are his commands:
  - a) Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your mind and all your soul...
  - b) Love one another as Christ has loved you.
2. Just following the fellowship section, John moves to knowing God. Knowing God and having a relationship with God go hand in hand. Continuous fellowship with God builds that relationship
3. The measure to which we know God and have a relationship with him is demonstrated by the way in which we conform to his Will in our lives.
  - a) Every believer knows God to some extent. A brand new believer knows of his Grace and Mercy.
  - b) But the extent to which we have an intimate relationship and knowledge of God is seen in the way we live our lives.
  - c) It is demonstrated in the Spiritual Fruit produced through us by the Spirit of God.

4. Vs 4: The believer who claims to know God but does not obey him, in faith, is lying to themselves. This includes those who know a lot about God.
  - a) The Fruit of the Spirit is not knowledge.
  - b) The Spirit uses knowledge to reveal God's will.
  - c) In obeying God's will through the power of the Spirit, Fruit is produced in us and through us.
5. Vs 5: But if we obey his word, love for God is made complete in us.
  - a) The extent we learn of him, obey him in faith, and fellowship with him (walking in the light) our love for God will grow.
  - b) Isn't this the purpose of our lives.
    - (1) To know God,
    - (2) To obey him, (Love one another)
    - (3) To fellowship with him (walk with him)
    - (4) To Love Him with all of our heart, mind and soul
    - (5) When we are doing this, aren't we glorifying Him?
6. Vs 5. This is how we know we are in him: Walk as Jesus did
  - a) In him: Since we know that John is writing to believers, and in context fellowship with God, the term "In Him" is not being used as Paul uses it referring to justification. This is referring to walking in the light.
  - b) Live as Jesus did...
  - c) **Turn to Gospel of John 15: 1 - 10** "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. **2** He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. **3** You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. **4** Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.
 

**5** "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. **6** If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. **7** If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

**9** “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. **10** If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.

d) Walk as Jesus walked

(1) What? Is that even possible?

(2) Is this the What would Jesus do movement?

(3) John 15:10 **10** If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.

e) How are we to live, keep our Father’s commands and remain his love.

C. The next few verses explain what it means to walk as Christ did

1. John 2: **7** Dear brothers, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. **8** Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

**9** Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. **10** Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. **11** But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

D. John is explaining to his readers that the command he is referring to is not a new command that they have never heard of before. But it is new in that when Christ came into the world, the Light of the World, he fulfilled it and demonstrated this love for us.

1. Turn to Leviticus 19:**18** “Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

2. Now look at John 13:34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

3. It is new in that we can see it in Christ, the light of the world.

a) We saw the love of Christ in his obedience to his Father in taking our place on the cross.

4. And it is seen in the Christian who is abiding in Christ producing the fruit of the Spirit that is Love.
  5. The darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.
    - a) The world is darkness and will continue to get darker but
    - b) Jesus Christ is the light of the world and is already shining.
    - c) When he returns, the darkness will be blotted out completely and only the light will shine.
  6. We are called to walk as Jesus walked... In the will of His Father.
- E. Vs 9 Anyone who hates his brother is still in the darkness.
1. If Love is a fruit of the Spirit, and we know that it is, then we cannot hate and be filled with the Spirit thus we are walking in darkness.
  2. Hate is a sure sign that we are not walking in fellowship with God.
  3. When Love is absent, Hate is present. When light is absent, darkness is present.
  4. Think about the church today: The world has always hated, but let's talk about those that know better. The body of Christ.
    - a) Isn't it more and more prevalent today to see believers spew hatred towards the world and towards each other?
      - (1) We are called hate the sin and love the sinner.
      - (2) But man do we spew hatred toward the sinner.
      - (3) Even in worldly matters.
      - (4) Our tongue convicts us of what is in our heart and to hate someone in your heart is murder
        - (a) 1John 3:15 **15** Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.
- F. But when Love (agape/spiritual love) is present, we know we are filled with the Spirit
1. My brothers and sisters, this is not romantic or physical love.
  2. This is love for a brother or sister in Christ that is based on the understanding that we as believers are all Children of God.
  3. This isn't based on who we are or who they are. It is love that is based on who and what Christ is.
  4. This love can only come from God himself. This is totally opposed to our sin nature.
- G. When we are filled with the Spirit and obeying God's will, there is nothing that can make us stumble. (constantly succumbing to temptations and living outside of God's will)

- H. Vs 11 - Anyone who hates a brother (lack of love) walks in the darkness and the darkness blinds them, they don't know where they are going.
  - 1. When we have hatred in our heart for a brother in Christ, we are in the darkness and we are not in fellowship with God.
  - 2. When we are out of fellowship, we don't know his Will and we are aimlessly wandering around in the world.
  - 3. No Spiritual Growth and no relationship with the Lord
- I. What is Love: Agape in the Greek
  - 1. God is love
  - 2. Agape love only comes from God 1 John 4: 7-8
  - 3. John 3:16 - For God loved the world in this way.
    - a) God shows us it is self-sacrifice and an unconditional commitment to the one being loved.
- J. To know God is to obey his commands:
  - 1. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind.
  - 2. Love One Another as Christ Loved You
- VI. With some foundational principles made, John now moves into the purpose of the Epistle.
  - A. He actually does this a few times but let's start with vs 12 - 14
  - B. **1John 2:12** I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.
 

**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.

**14** I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. 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 lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.
  - C. John is addressing believers in different stages of their spiritual advancement
    - 1. Children - You have believed and your sins are forgiven.
    - 2. Fathers - You know the Father and the son - Spiritual Relationship
    - 3. Young men - you have had spiritual victories
  - D. And then recognizing the Spiritual Advancement

1. Children - You know the Father, you have moved beyond salvation to begin your growth in knowing the Father.
  2. Fathers - You know Christ - continuing relationship of the mature believer.
  3. Young men - your spiritual victories and your living knowledge of the Word has made you stronger... Not quite to the mature relationship with God.
- E. These are words of encouragement to continue in the faith seeking the ultimate maturity of a believer which is to have an ongoing relationship with the Father and the Son through the continual filling of the Spirit.
- F. He is letting them know that they are moving forward in their spiritual growth and to keep pursuing a relationship with God.
1. The point is not knowing about God - Knowledge
  2. It is not mechanically serving or obey him in our strength and self discipline
  3. It is about knowing God... An intimate relationship with our creator.
  4. We are all in different stages of our walk but wherever we are continue to walk in the Light.
- VII. Vs **15** Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. **16** For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. **17** The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.
- A. John has explained fellowship and knowledge of God that leads to an eternal relationship with God. He has encouraged them to walk in the light and has called out they are each in different positions spiritually but they are making progress towards Spiritual Maturity.
- B. Now John is warning them of their relationship with the world.
- C. Summary of these verses:
1. Vs. 15 Don't love the world,
  2. Vs 16. Love of the world comes from the world
  3. Vs. 17 The World passes away.
- D. What is the world: It is a system of values, beliefs, ideas that are in direct conflict to God. The world system is absent of God. (not his presence, since he is omniscient).
- E. Don't love the world because: If the world is absent of God and we are in love with the world, then the love of the Father is not in us.
1. The world competes for the love of believers.

- a) This is directed at believers. Unbelievers have no other option but to conform to the world. There is no spiritual life in an unbeliever.
  - 2. It is so easy to fall into loving the world. Even in our desire to follow God, we can fall in love with the world.
- F. Everything enticing about the world comes from the world.
  - 1. The OSN is completely aligned with the lure of the world.
    - a) Lust of the flesh - The greek phrase refers to illicit bodily appetites: That seems to be prevalent in the world and even in the church. It can be sex, drugs, obsession with self beauty or self loathing.
    - b) Lust of the Eyes: The covetous nature of man. Wanting something that is outside the will of God.
    - c) Pride of Life: So proud of what we have done. For the world and can even be for the Lord. Our work done for our glory.
- G. The world and the worldly systems are Satan's kingdom and he deceives us into thinking things of this world are noble, righteous, and even holy, but if God isn't in them, then they are of this world.
  - 1. There is no neutral ground. It is either of God or it isn't.
- H. The things of this world pass away.
  - 1. The believer should know that all the things of the world are temporary and should be outside of our desires.
  - 2. Ultimate sanctification, the things of this world will be gone. We will no longer be in the presence of sin.
  - 3. But until then, we are to live with our eyes focused on the Lord and not as an unbeliever chasing after the things of this world.
- I. But whoever does the will of the Father lives forever.
  - 1. The abiding life of the believer in relationship with God.
  - 2. When we are living in God's will, abiding in Christ in relationship with God, we are living the eternal life.
  - 3. What is Eternal Life John 17:3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.
  - 4. When we live a life in relationship with God, we will not be affected by the passing away of this world.
  - 5. As Pastor Mattox has said so many times.
    - a) Only one life 'twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last.
- J. In summary of vs 15-17

1. Love for the world indicates lack of love for God (**1 John 2:15**). It is not the will of our heavenly Father for us to love the things of this world (**1 John 2:16**). It lasts only a short time (**1 John 2:17**), and it breaks intimate fellowship with God (**1 John 2:15**).

VIII. Moving on to Vs 18-29: John moves to his appeal to his readers not to be moved from the truth of Jesus Christ. You will see that he continues his thought about the world passing away as he introduces the the discussion about the last hour.

**18** Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. **19** They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that <sup>[d]</sup>it would be evident that they all are not of us. **20** <sup>[e]</sup>But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. **21** I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and <sup>[f]</sup>because no lie is of the truth. **22** Who is the liar except the one who denies that Jesus is the <sup>[g]</sup>Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. **23** Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also. **24** *As for you, see that* what you heard from the beginning remains in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father.

**25** This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.

**26** These things I have written to you concerning those who are *trying* to deceive you. **27** And *as for you*, the anointing which you received from Him remains in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you remain in Him.

**28** Now, little children, remain in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not <sup>[h]</sup>draw back from Him in shame at His coming. **29** If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness also has been born of Him.

#### A. Vs 18-19

1. We are in the last hour. The final era, post Christ's first advent.
2. We need to remember that antichrist is coming.
  - a) Anti Christ: 2 Thes 2: 1-12 - Man of Lawlessness...
  - b) We are in the last times. We do not know when the end times will come upon us, but we know they are coming.

- c) Many antichrists have come. This is not speaking to the end times man of lawlessness but rather false teachers that teach against Christ and the Gospel.
- d) Be prepared. Do not be deceived. Many of them claim to be Christian teachers. (coming out from the apostles).
- e) We have to be diligent and filled with the Spirit.

B. Vs 20 - 21

1. How do we defend against false teaching,
  - a) We are anointed with the Spirit. Placing our trust in him.
  - b) The indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the study of the Word of God, provides us with instruction in the truth.
  - c) Where the truth resides, there is no lie. False teachers will not deceive when we are studying the truth and walking in the Spirit.

C. Vs 22 - 23:

1. The false teachers deny Jesus Christ. His deity, his humanity, his work on the cross, The Gospel
2. To deny the Son is to deny the Father, to know the Son is to know the Father. We cannot have a relationship with God and not know the truth of the Gospel.

D. Vs 24-25: Stand firm in what we believe about the Gospel, about Jesus Christ. Don't be persuaded by the world and the teaching of the world. Everything of the world is temporary but we stand in Jesus Christ. We stand firm in what we have been promised. Eternal life in relationship with God.

E. Vs 26-27

1. We as believers have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We are not dependent on the teaching of man, but the teaching of the Spirit.
2. This is not calling on the body of Christ to leave the teaching of a pastor and go sit on a mountaintop and be Spiritual. If that were true, then why would John have written this letter of teaching?
3. What is true is that the Spirit is the teacher. We are to discern truth through the Spirit and be taught by the Spirit. This is how we combat the deception of false teachers.
4. And just as we were taught by the Word and by the Spirit speaking through a faithful pastor teacher, remain in Him. Walk in the Light, Know Him, Obey His Commands, Choose to be a vessel that the Spirit can use to produce fruit. Do not be a vessel of the false teachers and of the world.

F. Vs 28 and 29:

1. As I read vs 28 and 29, which I know we have studied before, I think back to Adam and Eve in the Garden.

- a) Before the fall, they would stroll with Jesus (God) in the cool of the day (Gen 3:8)
- b) An intimate relationship with God, our creator. A relationship based on faith (God did Everything) and Adam and Eve obeyed in Faith.
- c) The relationship was perfect.
- d) But immediately after the fall, God called to them in the Garden and they hid from him. They were ashamed.
- e) But the grace of God covered their shame with the skin of animals (required death).
- f) When he returns and calls out to us in the world (metaphorically) will we be hiding from him (ashamed) no relationship,
- g) Or will we know his voice and run to him?

G. Close by reading John 15: 1-11.