

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 11TH, 2026 // FIRST JOHN

VICTORY (1 JOHN 5:1-5)

WHO DO YOU LOVE?

Chapter 4 ended with "The one who loves God must also love his brother and sister."

- John clarifies and says our "brother and sister" are everyone born of God.
- As Christ followers, who we love isn't determined by race, education, social status, denomination, or Bible version. If they trust in Christ alone as their Savior, we love them.
- **Loving God and loving His children cannot be disconnected.**

HOW DO YOU LOVE?

After John shares who we will love, he tells us how we can know that we are loving them.

- Our love for others is revealed as we love God and obey His commands.
- This love is evidence of our faith, not a mandate.
- Many make the mistake of doubting their faith because they don't "feel" like they love well.
- **Answer the simple questions: Do I love God? Do I seek to obey His commands?**

"KEEP HIS COMMANDS"

John reveals that saying we love God but failing to keep His commands is nonsense.

- If we are living like keeping His commands is a chore, a bore, or a heavy load, we are missing the reward of following God's will.
- It doesn't mean that it will be easy to fulfill God's commands.
- **As Christ followers, we characteristically keep His commands, but we still aren't perfect.**

CONQUERORS

After John affirms their relationship with God by revealing the character of a Christ follower, he reminds them of the victory that came when Christ conquered the world.

- Christ's crucifixion and resurrection are how victory was accomplished, and He is the object of our faith.
- **Because we follow Christ, we obey His commands and love others. Can we really live in His victory today?**

EVIDENCE (1 JOHN 5:6-12)

FAITH AND EVIDENCE

Faith that overcomes the world is the very specific belief "that Jesus is the Son of God."

- Living in Jesus' victory is dependent upon our belief that He was real, that He actually came to earth, that His purpose was service and sacrifice, and that He defeated sin and death.
- **In this way, faith and victory become synonyms. It isn't blind faith but a real and verifiable truth that gives us strength to live this life to the fullest.**

WITNESSES

John testifies against the false teachers when he points to the witnesses of the deity of Christ.

- That Jesus was born was not in dispute. That He was baptized was also accepted.
- John is clarifying that Jesus was born the Son of God, had the Holy Spirit in Him, and was as fully the Son at His death as He was at His baptism and birth.
- **God has provided, through the Holy Spirit, all the evidence needed to know that the object of our faith, Jesus, can also be known by us.**

"WHO HAS THE SON"

The Holy Spirit testifies, but we also have the testimony of other Believers.

- It seems that too many people are willing to accept the testimony of men over the testimony of the Holy Spirit.
- John's point is that the Holy Spirit will testify through people who know Christ. There will be agreement.
- **Those who believe in the Son of God have this testimony within themselves. We know Him, and we grow in our relationship with Him. Who are we going to believe?**

TRUE (1 JOHN 5:13-21)

"KNOW THAT YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE"

The major theme of this letter has been assuring God's people of their relationship with Him as reconciled, forgiven children.

- John has presented his case: Christians will find joy as they experience fellowship with God the Father, through Jesus the Son, and within the community of His family, the Church.
- **This is eternal life: a personal encounter with and knowledge of God, leading to a lifetime of fellowship with Him, which cannot be counterfeited.**

ASSURANCE IN PRAYER

John reminds us that we can have confidence in our communication with God, our Father.

- God hears prayers that are prayed "according to His will."
- **Prayer is not an attempt to get God to see things our way and extract from Him what we have decided we need or want. Prayer is submitting our will to His.**
- Don't be afraid to pray. **Pray more! Maybe use fewer words and more surrender.**

SIN, GUILT, UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, AND DEATH

Verses 16 and 17 can seem difficult for us to understand. John's readers understood.

- If we see fellow Believers in sin and struggling with guilt, we hold them accountable and sincerely pray for them. Yes, Believers can still sin and have unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).
- **The sin that leads to death is not committed by Believers; it is the sin of never following Christ. The end is always death.**

ATTITUDE

John repeats that Christians do not live lives dedicated to sin but are protected by their Savior and live in victory over sin.

- We also know WHY the world pursues sin with reckless abandon.
- **Christ came to us when we were "the world," and now He sends us into the world with the understanding we have of "the true one." Do our attitudes reflect what we know?**

IDOLS

- Idols are a problem.
- **They are far worse than figurines.**
- **Idols are anything that squeezes God out of the center of our lives. God has given us His Word to distinguish truth from error. Are we following the false gods of spirituality, intellectualism, or materialism?**

FAMILIAR

- We become familiar with what is close.
- **It's not that we always WANT to be close to things, but we do get to choose how familiar we become.**
- **If we stay close to sin, we will become more familiar with it. If we stay in God's Word and follow His commands, we will become more familiar with Him and His will for our lives. What we do next will change our lives.**

ACTION

- There is always a call to action.
- **Sometimes, the action is to stop, be still, and know that He is God.**
- **What keeps us from moving forward? Do we doubt ourselves? Why? God has proven Himself to be loving and true. We can have faith in Him and what He has done. He will also work through us. We cannot let the world stop us from sharing what God has done to save us and them. Boldness and humility are marks of disciples. GO!**