

Letters of John

Jan 28, 2024, 1 John Ch 5

Logos Class. Mod 5 Room 1

Class Schedule for the next few weeks

- ✓ *Dec 31, 2023 – YE 2023 Review & Letters of John- 1 John Ch 1*
- ✓ *Jan 7, 2024 – 1 John Ch 2A*
- ✓ *Jan 14, 2024 – 1 John Ch 2B & 3*
- ✓ *Jan 21, 2024 – 1 John Ch 4*
- ✓ *Jan 28, 2024 – 1 John Ch 5*
- *Feb 4, 2024 - 2 John*
- *Feb 11, 2024 – 3 John*

New FRC App is coming

- The pastor will announce it this morning in church...much expanded.
- Section for each Connection Group – Not really sure what it is for and how we use it, but I will find out and let everyone know.
- On iPhone just update the App, on Android, I think you have to request it, but we will get clarity on that this morning.
- It is preparing us for the next phase of growth and focus on small groups at FRC

Quick Update on Israel and Wars

- Israel is moving deeper into Southern Gaza, in Khan Younis where many terrorist higher-ups live...destroying tunnels, weapons, and facilities
 - They have suffered many killed by booby traps and RPG fire
- Hamas still has over 100 hostages but is sending videos threatening to behead them if Israel does not stop “killing civilians” in Gaza
- Hezbollah and Iran are striking Israel in the North, and Israel is striking back hard in Syria and Lebanon killing terrorists and targeting Hamas, Iranian, and Hezbollah military leaders.
- This war is becoming more dangerous in the North and the US/ UK are closer to being very involved. Iran-backed militias are escalating attacks on US forces
- The US is fortifying Israel's military capability with planes, Helicopters, and munitions
- Israel is cleaning out terrorist camps in Judea and Samaria as well. **Tension HIGH**
- **ICJ has ruled and did not take an anti-Israel position as expected...for now**

Recap of Last week...*1 John Ch 4*

- In 1 John 4, we learned to distinguish THE TRUTH from False Teaching (vv. 1-6)
 - Signs of cults and false teachers and prophets
 - We learned how to affirm a Spirit is from God
- God is Love and Love flows from (God vv. 7-21)
 - Love for God and Love for brothers and sisters in God are inseparable parts of being a Christian
 - God showed His love for us by sending His Son and by leaving us with the Holy Spirit to Indwell us as believers.
 - There is no fear in Love. God's Love for us allows us confidence in standing before Him.
 - Our Love for Him comes in obedience and love for our brothers and sisters.

1 John 5:1-2 Faith in the Son of God.

5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves his child as well.

2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.

Two thoughts are in John's mind here:

- 1. All of his thinking is based on the fact that the Love of God and Love of His Children are inseparable*
- 2. John recognizes the human law of love: Children love their parents, and parents love their children*

Jesus answered a Q that speaks to this..

Mark 12:28-34

²⁸ One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, **“Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”**

²⁹ **“The most important one,”** answered Jesus, **“is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’** ³⁰ **Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’** ³¹ **The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”**

³² **“Well said, teacher,”** the man replied. **“You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. ³³ To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”**

³⁴ **When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”** And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

1 John 5:3-5 Showing our Love for God

³ *In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are **not burdensome**,*

⁴ *for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.*

⁵ *Who is it that overcomes the world? **Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.***

*Think about this: **Obedience is the proof of Love***

1 John 5:6 Water and Blood

*⁶ This is the **one** who came by **water and blood**—**Jesus Christ**.*

*He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who **testifies**, because the **Spirit is the truth**.*

- *What does it mean to come by water and blood? A discussion point for commentators and teachers for years.*
- *Come by water – natural birth, all of us come by water as that is part of the human birth process*
- *And blood – this adds the Cross and His Saving grace and redeeming blood as the 2nd point. Christ did not need to be saved by “His Blood” since He was sinless...**but we do***

But it is the Spirit who testifies.

1 John 5:7-8 Who testifies? And what do they say?

In the NIV:

⁷ For there are three that testify:

⁸ the ^(note) Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

In the NKJV it reads this way:

*⁷ For there are three that bear witness **in heaven**: the **Father**, the **Word**, and the **Holy Spirit**; and these three are one. ⁸ And there are three that bear witness **on earth**: the **Spirit**, the **water**, and the **blood**; and these three agree as one.*

Differences...

Why and how?

They are both true but only one is part of the earliest manuscripts

1 John 5:9-12 Witnesses to the truth

⁹ If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son.

¹⁰ He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a **liar**, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

¹¹ And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal **life**, and this **life is** in His Son.

¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

The Greek word for “life” in God is “ZOE” This is the life that God intended for us...the life that does not die but is eternal with Him

1 John 5:13-15

Affirmations

*¹³ I write these things **to you who believe in the name of the Son of God** so that **you may know that you have eternal life.***

*¹⁴ This is the **confidence** we have in approaching God: **that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.***

*¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—**we know that we have what we asked of him.***

1 John 5:16-17 *Sin unto Death*

¹⁶ If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray, and God will give them life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death.

There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that you should pray about that.

¹⁷ All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.

Two Sins called out that are important to Understand

- **The Unforgivable Sin** – Mark 3 and Matt 12 – Blaspheming the Holy Spirit. This sin was critical then but today it is the Sin of Unbelief
- **The Sin unto Death** – Not easy to single out and understand because the audience is not perfectly clear...*brother or sister, or general?*
 - *Is it physical death or spiritual death?*
 - *Differences of opinion, but they knew what John meant and I think it most likely was in the context of the heresies in the church at that time.*
 - *If spiritual death, we know they are not believers or brothers and sisters, so it is most likely talking about physical death*
 - ***What do I think?? Unrepentant habitual sin that is willful and leads to his/her destruction. We know some actions lead to the high probability of destruction, and this is most likely it, but I am not dogmatic about it, because it is not perfectly clear in the texts.***
 - *We see that we are not **required** to pray for this sin, but we most likely will because we do not know the line at which God calls an end to His Striving with Man.*

1 John 5:18-21 Final Thoughts...

*18 We know that anyone born of God does not **continue** to sin; the **One** who was **born of God** keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them.*

*19 We know that **we are children of God**, and that **the whole world is under the control of the evil one**.*

*20 We know also 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 by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.***

*21 **Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.***

Final Thoughts on 1 John

John finishes with the statement about keeping ourselves away from idols

What is an idol?

- *Not just wood or stone figures of a god*
- *Anything that gets between us and God ...Jobs, lifestyle, earning money, family (tough one), society changing norms, desire to “fit in”, even worshipping a pale imitation of Christ, which is not biblical. This becomes a false Christ, taught by false teachers.*
- *Apostasy is rapidly coming into the church, as it has through secular society.*

*Church people are trying to fit the world's rampant sin and unbelief into a package that can be accommodated by believers. **Do not be swayed... Sin is Sin and God has not winked regardless of who says it.** Abortion, LGBTQ+, same-sex marriage, and alternative lifestyles are invading the church. Be on guard and hold fast to the Truth of Scripture.*

Next Week

- *Read 2 John*
- *Pray for each other... a lot is going on*
- *Pray for Israel and the Peace of Jerusalem*
- *Pray for our country and its leaders*
- *Pray for our State and County and their leaders*
- *Pray for our Church, its Pastors, Teachers, and Members that we will be faithful to His Call and Direction*
- *Pray that the sermon series on a Biblical Worldview will make a difference in people's lives.*