

# Great Themes in John's Epistles

## Class Review

## Reasons for the Epistles:

- "that your joy may be full" - **1 John 1:4**
- "that you may not sin" - **1 John 2:1**
- "that you may know that you have eternal life" -  
**1 John 5:13a**
- "that you may continue to believe in the name of the  
Son of God" - **1 John 5:13b**

## **Key Themes:**

- **Love for God and our brethren**
- **Gift of Christ**
- **Confidence in our salvation**
- **Two realms – of the world or of God**
- **Fellowship with God**

## **Key Theme:** Love for God and our brethren

- **Key verses:** 1Jn 3:23, 4:7-8,11,19, 1Jn 5:1-3
- **How should this impact my thinking?**
- **What are some practical applications for growth?**

**Key Theme:** Love for God and our brethren

**Key verses:** 1Jn 3:23, 4:7-8,11,19, 1Jn 5:1-3

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

<sup>19</sup> We love Him because He first loved us.<sup>20</sup> If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

**Key Theme:** Love for God and our brethren

**Key verses:** 1Jn 3:23, 4:7-8,19-20, 1Jn 5:1-3

5 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. <sup>2</sup> By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. <sup>3</sup> For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

## **Key Theme:** Love for God and our brethren

- **How should this impact my thinking?**
- **What are some practical applications for growth?**

**God is love – 180 vs 1&3**

# 1 John 5:1-3

**5** Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. <sup>2</sup> By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His

commandments  
that we keep  
commandments

## *Reasoning for loving our brother:*

- to believe in Jesus is evidence of our being begotten of God
- If begotten of God/We love God
- To love God, requires us to love his children

# 1 John 5:1-3

**5** Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. **2** By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. **3** For this is the love of God that we keep His commandments

***What is the test for loving our brother:***

- **We love God**
- **Keep his commandments**

*John 13:34 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*

## **Key Theme: Gift of Christ**

- **Key verses: 1Jn 4:2, 9-10, 14-15, 1Jn 5:4-5**
- **How should this impact my thinking?**
- **What are some practical applications for growth?**

## Key Theme: Gift of Christ

- Key verses: 1Jn 4:2, 9-10, 14-15, 1Jn 5:4-5

<sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God

<sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

## **Key Theme: Gift of Christ**

- **Key verses: 1Jn 4:2, 9-10, 14-15, 1Jn 5:4-5**

<sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

1Jn 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

## **Key Theme: Gift of Christ**

- **How should this impact my thinking?**
  
- **What are some practical applications for growth?**

**Is it for me – 336 1&4**

## **Key Theme:** Confidence in our salvation

- **Key verses:** 1 John 2:2; 28-29, 1Jn 4:17, 1Jn 5:4-5, 11, 13
- **How should this impact my thinking?**
- **What are some practical applications for growth?**

## **Key Theme:** Confidence in our salvation

- **Key verses:** 1 John 2:1-2; 28-29, 1Jn 4:17

2 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup> And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

<sup>28</sup> And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. <sup>29</sup> If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

## **Key Theme:** Confidence in our salvation

- **Key verses:** 1 Jn 4:17, 1 Jn 5:4-5, 11, 13

<sup>17</sup> Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

## **Key Theme:** Confidence in our salvation

- **Key verses:** 1 Jn 4:17, 1 Jn 5:4-5, 11, 13

5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.

## **Key Theme:** Confidence in our salvation

- How should this impact my thinking?
- What are some practical applications for growth?

**I know not why 291 1&4**

## **Key Theme:** Two Realms – of the World or of God

- **Key verses:** 1Jn 1:5-7, 2:9-11, 15-17, 2:29-3:1, 7-8
- **How should this impact my thinking?**
- **What are some practical applications for growth?**

## **Key Theme:** Two Realms – of the World or of God

- **Key verses:** 1Jn 1:5-7, 2:9-11, 15-17, 2:29-3:1, 7-8

1:5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

**Key Theme:** Two Realms – of the World or of God

**Key verses:** 1Jn 1:5-7, 2:9-11, 15-17, 2:29-3:1, 7-8

2:9 He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. <sup>10</sup> He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. <sup>11</sup> But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

**Key Theme:** Two Realms – of the World or of God

- **Key verses:** 1Jn 1:5-7, 2:9-11,15-17, 2:29-3:1,7-8

2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

## **Key Theme:** Two Realms – of the World or of God

- **Key verses:** 1Jn 1:5-7, 2:9-11, 15-17, 2:29-3:1, 7-8

**2:29** If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.**3:1** Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

**3:7** Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. <sup>8</sup> He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning.

## **Key Theme:** Two Realms – of the World or of God

- **How should this impact my thinking?**
  
- **What are some practical applications for growth?**

**This world is not my home 684 1&2**

# Do not love the world

**What reasons are given that we should not love the world?**

- **If we love the world, we can't love the Father**
- **It is passing away, will not endure**

**What are the things that will endure?**

- **God, God's love, God's word, those who do the will of God**

# 1 John

- **More Features of the epistle**

- **Seven Contrast:**

1. **Light vs darkness 1:5-2:11**
2. **Father vs the world 2:12-17**
3. **Christ vs the antichrist 2:18-28**
4. **Good works vs evil works 2:29-3:10**
5. **Spirit of truth vs the spirit of error 4:1-6**
6. **True love vs false love 4:7-21**
7. **Begotten vs unbegotten 5:1-21**

## **Key Theme: Fellowship with God**

- **Key verses: 1Jn 1:1-3, 1 Jn 2:15-17, 1 John 2:24, 2 John 9**
- **How should this impact my thinking?**
- **What are some practical applications for growth?**

## **Key Theme: Fellowship with God**

- **Key verses: 1Jn 1:1-3, 1 Jn 2:15-17, 1 John 2:24**

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—<sup>2</sup> the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—<sup>3</sup> that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

## **Key Theme:** Fellowship with God

- **Key verses:** 1Jn 1:1-3, 1 Jn 2:15-16, 1 John 2:24

<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

## **Key Theme:** Fellowship with God

- **Key verses: 2 Jn 9**

2 Jn 9 Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.



## **Key Themes: Fellowship with God**

- **Meaning – association, community, communion, joint participation**
- **What are things mentioned in 1 John that destroy our fellowship with God?**

## **Key Themes: Fellowship with God**

- **Characteristics of God - how do we have fellowship in these things?**
  - **God is light - 1 John 1:5-10**
  - **God is love – 1 John 4:16**
  
- **God's dealing with man - how do we have fellowship in these things?**
  - **God communicated w/ man - 1 John 2:24**
  - **Given us eternal life – 1 John 5:11-13**

## **Applications for today:**

**The church had been in existence for over 50 years. New doctrines were taught to reflect new modern thinking and changing morals. How did John respond in:**

**1 Jn 2:7, 2:24, 3:11, 2 Jn 5-6**

**What is the lesson for us 2000 years later?**

## **Applications for today:**

**John emphasized the importance of the conduct of the early Christians that he was addressing. He admonishes them to live pure lives and to love one another. What grounds did he base this appeal?**

**1 Jn 1:5, 3:2-3, 3:16, 4:8,16**

**What is the lesson for us?**

**Any other applications from our study?**

**Find a verse in 1,2,3 John that is meaningful to you and explain why?**