

First Letter of John

Bible Study

**For Small Group or
Individual Study**

Bible Study
First Letter of John
Instructions and information on how to use this Bible Study

This Bible study was written for small group use and discussion but has been modified for individual study. I believe it can be of great help toward effective study even without a leader. I believe it is a sound method for study as it consists of just what is found in the Word of God. It is not meant to be a commentary. I have made comments on very few verses. If you desire that format there are many available for you. This is a do-it-yourself Bible Study. Following are instructions as to how it can best be utilized.

Here are some basic facts about this study and how to best utilize it. There are questions for almost every verse in the letter. The questions are numbered separately for each chapter and just below the question at the start of the blank line, you will find the Chapter and Verse reference for that question. Some of the questions have very obvious answers and almost seem too simple. They serve to get us to read the verse carefully. Other questions are more difficult and others have an answer which may require an opinion or some knowledge not in the individual verse. It is important that the answer to each question be written down on the study sheet. This will keep you from skipping over any questions. If you come to a question to which you can not find a satisfactory answer, don't give up. Ask someone else. The exact answer to my question may not be apparent because the study was built around the New American Standard Version.

You will notice just below most of the questions there are scripture references. These verses may or may not help answer the question. Their primary purpose is not to help answer the question. They may help re-enforce what John says in the verse. It may expand on what the verse says or give additional information we need to know that is not contained in the verse. The scripture references came from the New American Standard Version margins and a work called the Treasury of Scripture Knowledge. If you have a study Bible some of them will be in your margin. Just a note here. You will see notation such as Rom 3:10f or Rom 3:10ff. This is normal notation for "verses following". One "f" means a few verses, or to the end of the paragraph, and "ff" usually means to the end of the chapter. If you have wide margins in your Bible you may want to write all of them in your Bible as I have. Or maybe just the ones which speak to you. I encourage you to make a few notes in the margins of your Bible when you feel the Spirit is speaking to you in a special way. It is very important that you look up and read each and every verse reference on the Bible study sheet. You may want to circle or underline each verse reference on the study sheet after you have read it so that you will not miss any.

Start the study by first reading the article on the Apostle John. It gives a little information about the man John who wrote this letter and other books of the Bible. More information may be available just before this letter or just before the Gospel of John in your Bible. I encourage you to read those also.

Next read the article on Gnosticism. This belief was one of the earlier heresies against the Christian church during its early development. You will learn this pagan religious belief was

probably the key reason John wrote this letter to these believers and many of the things he says should be interpreted in light of this belief.

Now take the time to read the entire epistle of First John. It is not important to try to understand it at this time. Just lightly read through the short book to familiarize yourself with the layout of the book and get some idea of what John has to say.

When you actually start the study you will want to read one paragraph at a time, then answer the questions for each verse in that paragraph. Chase down the verses references at each question before writing down the answer to the question.

Scripture memory is an important part of any serious Bible Study. Here are some suggestions for memory verses. You may find other verses which speak louder to you and want to memorize some of them. I encourage you to commit some verses to memory. Anyone who seriously tries can memorize verses. You may find that the wording of many modern translations seem to make them difficult to memorize for many people. King James Version, New American Standard Version or the New King James Version are much easier for me to commit to memory than most of the modern translations. The easiest method is to create flash cards on 3 X 5 cards, or something similar, with the verse on one side and the address on the other. Most people have little trouble memorizing a verse every week if they really try. I have found that most people do not understand the value of memorization and are not willing to really try. The following are key verses and are therefore good verses to memorize:

- 1 John 1:5
- 1 John 1:9
- 1 John 2:16-17
- 1 John 3:1-2
- 1 John 4:10
- Gospel of John 1:1-5 is good because the first fourteen (14) verses of that Gospel summarizes most of what John says in his letters.

Here is a recap of the Bible Study instructions:

1. Read the article on John.
2. Read the article on Gnosticism.
3. Read the entire book of First John.
4. Start the study by reading one paragraph at a time. Your translation may use different marks to indicate a paragraph, such as a bolder first letter of a word or verse number.
5. Look up all of the scripture references below the question if there are any (Circle them on the sheet as you look them up so you will know which ones you have chased down).
6. Write the answer to each question. You may have to analyze the verse carefully.
7. Keep a small note book handy for making notes when you believe the Spirit is speaking to you.

Apologies: Although I have not plagiarized any work some of the comments here may not have originated with me, but from some since forgotten source. Electronic copies of this and other studies may be available as “pdf” files on my web site <http://lightinside.org>

Serving the King, Aaron Bruce

The Man John With KJV Scriptures

Who was John who wrote this epistle? The name John was common in Jesus' day. It was derived from the Hebrew word *Yohanan*, which literally means “Jehovah is gracious.” It was often given to a child as a testimony of the parent's gratitude to God for the gift of a baby. Five different men in the New Testament bear the name of John. They are:

- John the Baptist – Luke 1:57-66 (**Luke 1:60** *And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John. Luke 1:76* *And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;)*
- John Mark – Acts 12:12, 25 & 2 Timothy 4:11 (**Acts 12:12** *And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying. Acts 12:25* *And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, when they had fulfilled their ministry, and took with them John, whose surname was Mark.)*
- Jona, or Jonas the father of Simon Peter – John 1:42, 21:15 & 17 (**John 1:42** *And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, a stone.)*
- John, a relative of Annas the high priest – Acts 4:6 (**Acts 4:6** *And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.)*
- John, son of Zebedee – Matthew 4:21, an apostle of Jesus – Matthew 10:2; who called himself “The elder” in 2 John 1 and 3 John 1. This John was the author of the epistles. The Gospel of John and the Book of Revelations. (**Matthew 4:21** *And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. Matthew 10:2* *Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;)*

John's mother was Salome according to Matthew 27:56 and Mark 15:40. (**Matthew 27:56** *Among which was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's children. ;Mark 15:40* *There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome;)*

John 19:25 when taken with these two verses suggests that Salome may have been a sister of Mary, the mother of Jesus. If so, then Jesus and John were cousins. (**John 19:25** *Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.)*

John's father was Zebedee according to Matthew 4:21, who was a fisherman on the sea of Galilee. He had at least one brother, James the apostle. Jesus named both brothers “Sons of Thunder”, possibly indicating a fiery personality in the young men. (**Mark 3:17** *And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder:)* Before becoming a disciple of Jesus, John was in the fishing trade with his father and brother. It appears that John's parents were well to do. Their household had servants -

Mark 1:20. (**Mark 1:20** *And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him.*) Salome bought spices for Jesus body – Mark 16:1 (**Mark 16:1** *And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him*). John was a personal acquaintance of the High Priest according to John 18:15, and usually the High Priests were of the upper class. (**John 18:15** *And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest.*)

From Galatians 2:9 we learn Peter, James, and John were leaders of the church at Jerusalem during the first years after Pentecost. (**Galatians 2:9** *And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.*) The later years of John's life were probably spent around Ephesus. It was a hub city of Asia Minor and is in modern day Turkey. The Bible books he wrote probably were written between AD 85 and 96. Paul started the church in Ephesus. John we believe was later to be the pastor. He is thought to have died there at about 100 years old. A church was built over the site of his grave in Ephesus. He was familiar with surrounding cities such as Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea. He may have directed this epistle to them.

Matthew wrote to the Jews. Luke wrote in a style and manner which would appeal to the Greeks. Mark wrote with the Romans in mind. John wrote to the Christians. He wrote the Gospel which bears his name, The Revelation of Jesus, and three Epistles, or letters. This is one thing that makes The Gospel of John and his other scriptures my favorite. John wrote to the Christians.

Many of the things we know about the early church was written by a man named Polycarp. He was a personal friend and disciple of John.

NOTE: I know that many people use a translation other than the King James, but I have used it here because it is in the public domain. I think it is fairly easy to understand here. You may want to look up these Scriptures in your favorite version of the Bible.

A Few Facts About Gnosticism

Gnosis means knowledge and gnostic one who has this knowledge. Gnosticism was the real enemy of Christianity as a heresy and still is. It was the basic philosophy of the Roman Empire and took many forms. One primary principle that ran through this philosophy was that matter of the material world was essentially evil. Only the spirit was good. Therefore, Gnosticism despised the body. It held that in the body was a spirit, like a seed in the dirty soil. The same principle in modern liberalism maintains that there is a spark of good in everyone and that each person is to develop that spark of good. Gnosticism sought to cause the “seed”, the spirit within them (the good) to grow. They tried to get rid of the evil in the body.

There were two extreme methods of accomplishing this goal as practiced by the Stoics and the Epicureans. Paul encountered these two sects of Gnostics in Acts 17:18, “And also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were conversing with him. Some were saying, “What would this idle babbling wish to say?” Others, “He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities”--because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection”.

- The Stoics were pantheists. Pantheism teaches that God is in all things and therefore all things are God. There is a God in all waiting to be realized or let out. They taught that wise men should be free from passion and unmoved by joy or grief. That they should be submissive to natural law. And they also observed rigid rules and self-discipline.
- The Epicureans considered pleasure rather than truth the pursuit of life. Originally they sought to satisfy intellectually, not sensually the quest for “knowledge”. But later they taught their followers to satisfy the body’s desires so it would not bother them any more and that way they could reach “gnosis” or knowledge.

Both considered the Incarnation impossible since God could not unite Himself with anything evil such as a body. They taught Jesus only seemed to have a body, but actually He did not. Or they taught there was both a human Jesus and a divine Christ. Divinity came upon Him at His baptism and left Him at the cross, read: just before the cross.

There are some Gnostic gospels according to commentaries I read. Some were the Gospel of Peter, Gospel of Thomas, the Acts of Jesus, The Secret Gospel, The Hidden Gospel – all of these are known to have been written centuries after our New Testament Books. Sometimes you will see them advertised as some new discovery or something hidden from us for centuries.

The main teaching affecting the early church was that since the body and spirit were separate that what the body did had no effect on the spirit. Therefore the body could do as it pleased and it would not affect the spirit. Nothing the body did was a sin, because sin is a spiritual thing!!!

Some modern day examples of Gnostic teachings are many New Age Cults, Metaphysics, Religious Science, Divine Science, Net Thought, Unity, Christ Unity Science, and Christian Science. Buddhism and Taoism are similar thought patterns also. (Sources: “*The Kingdom of the Cults*” by Walter Martin and “*Larson’s Book of Cults*,” by Bob Larson)

The Jesus of Christian Science: Gnosticism was revived by Mary Baker Eddy and she became its 20th century exponent. She “discovered” that “God was all and in all, that God was good.

Therefore since God is in all and was good that which was not good, (evil) did not really exist.” Some examples would of course be sickness, death, pain, hell, Satan, and so on. (Yes this is what Christian Science believes today). Mrs. Baker declared concerning “her” Jesus: “The Christian who believes in the First Commandment is a monotheist. Thus he virtually unites with the Jew’s belief in one God and recognizes that Jesus Christ is not God as Jesus Christ Himself declared, but is the Son of God”– *“Science and Health, pg 152”*. Mrs Eddy spelled out her view so that no one could possibly misinterpret her when she wrote: “The Spiritual Christ was infallible: Jesus, as material manhood, was not Christ: – *“Miscellaneous Writings, pg 84.”*”

I John 4:3, “Every spirit that confesses not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God”.

Gnosticism was around before Christianity but the danger came when they began to add their teachings to those of Christianity. Such as that Jesus had given them secret Gnosis or Knowledge, and that they could not sin because the body and spirit were completely separate. By denying basic Christian doctrines such as the virgin birth, total sufficiency of the cross, denying that Jesus was God, they became the spreaders of the first heresy in the church. These same things and beliefs are used by the cults today. They change key Christian doctrines, subtle changes, but drastic and essential to what we believe, and to what God said in HIS WRITTEN WORD.

Small Group or Individual Bible Study
First Letter of John
Chapter 1

John opens his letter by stating that he is writing what he has seen, heard and touched. That he knows Jesus was a real person and that he really died and rose from the dead. God is light and anything opposed to God and the Gospel of Jesus is darkness. The message from God is that the blood of his son Jesus and only that cleanses us from sin.

1. Name three ways in which John had contact with the Word of Life.

1:1 _____

2. What proof does John offer the believer that Christ was manifested?

1:2 _____

3. What is one of John's purposes for telling about Christ?
1Cor 1:9 - call to fellowship; 1 Jn 5:13 - reason he wrote

1:3 _____

4. Name two of the members of the Trinity having fellowship with believers.

1:3 _____

5. State one reason that John is writing this epistle.

1:4 _____

6. What message is John passing on to his readers?
James 1:17; John 1:4-5, 9, 3:19, 8:12, 12:35-36; Eph 5:8 - walk as children of light;
1 Jn 2:9&10; 1 Pet 2:9; Matt 5:14-16; God is Father of Light - Jn 8:44; Satan father of lies.

1:5 _____

7. What makes liars out of us?
James 2:14 - faith but no works; James 2:18 - show faith by works; 2 Cor 6:14-16; John 3:19-21;
Proverbs 4:19

1:6 _____

8. State the basis of fellowship between two believers.
Isa 2:5; 1 Cor 6:11 - washed & sanctified; Eph 1:7 - through His blood; 1 Tim 6:16; Heb 9:14 - blood of Christ superior to all sacrifices; Rev 1:5-6

1:7 _____

9. How are we cleansed of sin?

1:7 _____

10. How is it possible for us to deceive ourselves?
Jn 16:7-8; Rom 3:10ff; Rom 6:15-18

1:8 _____

11. What must we do to have our sins forgiven?
Psalms 32:1-5; Psalms 51:1-4

1:9 _____

12. How often will Christ forgive us our sins?

1:9 _____

13. When we confess our sins, what else does Christ do besides forgiving us?

1:9 _____

Comment on verse 1:9 - The word “confess” is the key to understand what this verse means. (According to Strong’s dictionary.) The Greek word used here is *Homologeō*. Homo means “the same as” and logeo means “to speak or say”. Confess here means to say the same thing. That is, to say the same thing about our sin that God says about it. It is not just saying we are “sorry”. Only when we say the same thing about our sin as God does can we be changed. According to this verse, when we confess God cleanses us from unrighteousness. This is much more than forgiveness. Once we see our sin as God does, then we begin to be changed. Our calling is to be changed into the likeness of Jesus.

14. What two conditions exist if we try to say that we have not sinned?

Psalms 130:3- if God kept up with our sins....; Job 15:14

1:10 _____

15. What do you think it means when John says His Word is not in us?

1:10 _____

16. In verses 6 through 10 of this chapter the word “if” occurs in each verse, five (5) times total. Each time it occurs it implies a condition to be fulfilled. Re-read each verse and write a one or two word description of the condition and what fulfills it for each “if” in each verse. Some of the modern translations are not phrased this way. You may have to use a more literal one here.

1:6 if _____

1:7 if _____

1:8 if _____

1:9 if _____

1:10 if _____

First Letter of John - Chapter 2

In this chapter John writes so that they might not sin. He points out that when anyone does sin they have Jesus as a go-between for them and the Father. They have known the truth from the beginning of their walk as Christians and the false teachers are not of the truth. They should realize that. Love is a motivating force for Christians and hate is to have no place in them. He tells them there is a common source for their temptations and it is worldly and of their flesh.

1. If a person does sin, what help is available to him?

Jn 13:33; Rom 8:26-39 - intercedes; 1 Tim 2:5 - mediator; Heb 7:25 - intercessor; Heb 7:26 - righteous High Priest just what we need; Heb 9:24 - in the presence of the Father for us

2:1 _____

2. For whose sins did Christ make propitiation (NIV: atoning Sacrifice)? That is: Met the legal demands of death for sinners. Eze 18:20, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." (KJV)

Propitiation is a very important word and concept. Occurrences: Rom 3:25; I Jn 4:19; Heb 2:17

2:2 _____

3. How may we tell whether or not we know Christ?

Jn 14:15; Jn 15:10; Rev 12:7 - mark of the Saints; Rev 14:12 - perseverance of the Saints

2:3 _____

To you what does John mean to "know Christ"? Does it mean being saved or being in fellowship with Him?

John 17:1-3

4. What are we if we claim to keep Christ's commands when we actually do not?

Titus 1:10 - empty talkers; Titus 1:16- unfit for any good work

2:4 _____

5. How may we have the love of God perfected in us? Hint: we can't keep what we do not know.

2:5 _____

Comment on verse 2:5 - The perfect love of God will be in us only to the degree that we live and think according to the pattern which is in God's word. It stands to reason that if we do not know His word, we will not recognize the pattern.

6. What is our standard for walking (living our lives) as Christians in our daily lives?

1 Pet 2:21-22ff

2:6 _____

7. There appears to be a contradiction in what John says in vs. 7 then vs. 8. What do you think he is saying or eluding to? Note the last part of vs. 8 is the key to understanding this.

2 John 1:5-6 - old command; Ro 13:12; Eph 5:8; 1 Thess 5:4f

2:7-8 _____

8. Contrast the difference between the one who hates his/her brother/sister and the one who loves his/her brother/sister.

2 Pet 1:4-10

2:9-10 _____

9. Tell three things about the person who hates his brother.

Pb 4:19; Jn 12:35; Titus 3:3

2:11 _____

10. What is the cause of these conditions? (This is why we should not be surprised when lost people live un-Godly lives.)

2:11 _____

Comment on verse 2:11 - Nothing moves us from God's light into Satan's darkness quicker than hate. I cannot be led by the Spirit of God with hate in my heart.

11. Why is John writing this epistle to the little children? (Spiritually immature, new believers?)

2:12 & 2:1 (1) _____

(2) _____

12. Give the reason for John's writing to the fathers. (Word also means parents)

2:13 _____

13. Why does John write to the young men?

2:13, 14 _____

14. John commands the Christian not to love two things. What are they? Note: the word for "world" does not refer to the physical world in which we live. Rather, it is used to denote human life and society devoid of God.

2:15 _____

15. What three categories describe the temptations or sins of the world?
Gen 3:6 - sin of Eve; Matt 4:1-11 - temptation of Jesus

2:16 _____

NOTE: See the separate comment sheet for 1 John 2:16 & Luke 4, if it is available, for my comments on these temptations. It should be after the last page of the study.

16. Genesis 3:6 is the story of Eve's temptation and sin. How do the three categories in 1 Jn 2:16 fit into mans fall from life into spiritual death?

Genesis 3:6 _____

17. Luke 4:2-14 tells us of Jesus being tempted by the devil yet without giving in to the temptation and committing sin. Can you see how the three temptations the devil put before Jesus fit into the three categories we found in 1 Jn 2:16 and Gen 3:6? (Jesus temptation also Matt 4:1-11)

Luke 4:2-14 _____

18. What will one day happen to the “world” and what happens to the child of God?

2:17 _____

19. We do not know exactly what John meant by “the last hour”, but what evidence does he offer that they were living in it?

2:18 _____

20. There is only one antichrist. He is mentioned in Daniel 9:26ff. But there were many around in John’s day who had the spirit of the antichrist. He most likely is speaking of the Gnostics. The spirit of the antichrist is alive and active today. How does John recognize those who have the spirit of the antichrist?

Acts 20:28-30

2:19 _____

21. How is the believer and these false teachers contrasted?

Matt 13:11 - know mysteries; Jn 14:26- Holy Spirit teach all things; Acts 10:38;
2 Cor 1:20-22

2:20 _____

22. Having made the distinction between the believer and those who have the spirit of antichrist, what further reason does John give for writing?

2 Peter 1:12; Jude 1:5

2:21 _____

23. What is one way the antichrist will be recognizable?

2:22 _____

24. What is the characteristic of those who deny the Son?

John 5:23; John 10:30; 2 John 1:9-11

2:23 _____

25. After contrasting the antichrists and the believer, what does John tell the believer to do?

John 15:4-7; Luke 1:2; Col 3:16

2:24 _____

26. What has the believer heard from the beginning according to 1 John 1:1 & 5?

27. To abide in Christ really means to have a continuing fellowship with the Son. How do we do this according to 1 Jn 1:7 and 2:5 & 6?

2:24 _____

28. What has God promised to those who abide?
Rom 5:21; Gal 5:22-23

2:25 _____

John 15:4 & 7 _____

29. The words *these things* are much like a *therefore* in that it points to something we need to know and understand. What are the *these things* which are referred to in 2:26?
(I have heard it said that anytime you see a “therefore” in scripture you should look and see what it is there for. Other phrases which often point to something important we need to know are “these things” or “for” or “if”, as in Chapter 1.)

2:18, 22, 23 (hints) _____

30. What term/word does John use for those who are seducing believers and with who are these seducers linked? (vs. 22ff)
John 8:44; 1 Tim 4:1

31. What safeguard do we have against the seducers of our faith?

2:27 _____

32. “You have no need for anyone to teach you” (NASB) really means “that anyone keep on teaching you”. Why is there no need for any man to teach a believer, ie keep on teaching?

2:27 _____

33. What reason for abiding in Christ does John give?

2:28 _____

34. Because Christ is returning for us, what should our attitude be?

1Corinthians 15:58; 2 Titus 4:8

2:28 _____

35. What happens to a person which gives the believer the power to live, act and even think as Jesus would, and wants us to also? Or what gives us a new nature?

John 3:3-5; 1 Peter 1:3; 1 Peter 1:23; 2 Peter 1:4

2:29 _____

36. Why does man need to be born again (re-born) to be spiritually alive?

Genesis 2:16-17

First Letter of John - Chapter 3

John tells them it is an awesome thing to be considered children of God by him. One day it will be fully revealed just what it means to be children of God. We live pure lives because of that motivation. Jesus came to take away sin and lived a perfect life, not just so he would be an example for us, but that he would be the perfect sacrifice for us. The greatest commandment from God is that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and all that represents. We are to abide in Him and He will abide in us. John pleads with his children in the faith not to let anyone deceive them.

1. What has the Father given us?

Rom 8:14-17; 2 Cor 6:18; Gal 3:20; Gal 4:5

3:1 _____

2. Because of the love given to us by the Father, what is our inherited position?

3:1 _____

3. If we are children of God, what are we in relation to Christ?

Rom 8:16 & 17 _____

4. Why are we not known as “Children of God” by the world?

3:1 _____

5. At what point in time will the sons and daughters of God be fully like Christ?

Rom 8:19; Rom 8:29 - God’s plan, we are to be like Jesus;

1 Cor 7:1 - will bear His image;

2 Cor 3:18 - transformed by the Spirit;

Col 3:4 - we will be revealed with Jesus in glory;

2 Peter 1:4 - born again as children of God & partakers of divine nature

3:2 _____

6. To what extent will we see Christ at the time of His return?

3:2 _____

7. Every Christian who is waiting for Christ’s return has a particular type of life to lead. What is it?

Rom 15:12 - in Christ the Gentiles hope; 2 Cor 7:1 - cleanse ourselves from all defilement;

1 Peter 1:3 - born again as children of God

3:3 _____

8. Who or what is the pattern for purity in the life of the Christian?

3:3 _____

9. Give a definition of sin.

3:4 _____

10. Why did Christ come down to earth?

2 Cor 5:21 He became sin on our behalf;

1 Peter 1:18-20 - redeemed with precious blood;

Titus 2:14 - purified us to Himself

3:5; Jn 3:17 _____

11. How does John say that we can avoid sin? (Habitual sin)

3:6 _____

12. What is the legal position of the person who accepts Christ?

3:7 _____

13. What type of person is of the devil?

3:8 _____

14. Why was Jesus born on the earth?

Colossians 2:15

3:8 _____

15. Why does the Christian refrain from continually sinning as a pattern of life?

Matt 7:18; Rom 6:2

3:9 _____

16. In contrast to an attitude of sin, what should the Christian do?

1 Peter 4:8

3:11 _____

17. Describe the example given to illustrate the truth of 3:11 in the next verse.
Psalms 37:12; Hebrews 11:4; Hebrews 37:12

3:12 _____

18. What does John give as a genuine sign that we have passed from spiritual death to life?
Gal 5:22; Eph 1:15; Col 1:4; Heb 13:1; 1 Pet 1:22; 2 Pet 1:7

3:14 _____

18. Since Christ gave his life for us, what should we do for our brothers and sisters in Christ?

3:16 _____

19. If a Christian has wealth, how should he use it?

3:17 _____

20. What does John say are two inadequate way of trying to show Christian love?

3:18 _____

21. If we love in deed and truth and yet our heart seems to condemn us, what may we rely on?

3:20 _____

22. How great a knowledge does God have of the heart of man? How does he know?
Hebrews 4:13

3:20 _____

23. What gives us confidence before God when we go to him in prayer? Explain what this means exactly to you.
Hebrews 4:15-16

3:21 _____

24. What are some conditions which normally must be fulfilled before we can expect God to grant the request we ask of Him? Do you think this is always true or almost always true?

3:22 _____

25. What does Jesus say is the “commandment”?
Deut 18:15ff - a prophet to come; Mark 9:7 - “listen to Him”; John 6:29; Acts 16:31 -“ believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.”

3:23 _____

26. What do we do for Christ to dwell in us or what shows it and how do we know that He dwells in us?
1Cor 3:16 - temple of God; Gal 4:6

3:24 _____

First Letter of John - Chapter 4

Once again John returns to a discussion of the false teachers. He gives additional marks which identify the false teacher in contrast to the child of God. Knowing the division which is brought about by false teaching, John also reminds the Christians to love one another. Our motivation to love God and others is based on the fact that Jesus loved us and gave His life for us when we were un-loveable. The believers are told that we are to test the spirits and we can do this because we have the Spirit of God in us.

1. What is every believer to do when he sits under the ministry of a teacher or preacher? Why is this necessary?

Pb 14:15 - naive believe everything; 1 Cor 12:10 - distinguishing spirits as a gift;
1 Thess 5:20-21 - do not despise prophecy; 1 Tim 4:1 - fall away;
2 Tim 3:13 - deceived & deceiving

4:1 _____

2. What test does John say to use to try or test the teachers and what they teach?
1 Tim 3:16

4:2 _____

3. What relationship to God, if any, does a teacher or preacher have if he denies that Jesus came in the flesh? What spirit does this denial represent?
2 John 1:7 - deceiver & antichrist

4:3 _____

4. Why or how have the children of God overcome the false teachers?
Romans 8:31 - if God is for us; Rom 8:37 - conquer through Him

4:4 _____

5. How does the world react to the false teacher and why?
2 Tim 4:3

4:5 _____

6. How or why may the spirit of truth and the spirit of error be determined? Also how may the children of God be distinguished from those of the world?

1 Cor 2:12-14

4:6 _____

7. What is the source of Christian love for the brethren?

Gal 2:22 - fruit of the Spirit; 1 Thess 4:9 - taught by God to love; 2 Tim 1:7 - Spirit of love

4:7 _____

8. Why can a believer who does not love the brethren not know God?

NOTE: The kind of love John is not talking about is not a feeling.

Eph 2:1-7

4:8 _____

9. How was God's love towards us shown by Him?

Rom 5:8; Rom 8:32

4:9 _____

10. What clarification does John add regarding the love of God?

1 Pete 3:18; Jn 3:16; 1 Jn 4:19

4:10 _____

11. What is Jesus' relationship to our sins?

4:10 _____

12. What is the basis we as believers have to love other believers?

Ephesians 5:2

4:11 _____

13. How may we know that God dwells in us? And what happens to the love of Christ which dwells in us?

4:12 _____

14. How may we know that we dwell in Christ?

1 Cor 2:12

4:13 _____

15. What is John's personal testimony regarding Jesus?

4:14 _____

16. In whom does God dwell?

Rom 10:9; Phil 2:11; 2 Jn 1:7

4:15 _____

17. What is the relationship between the one who dwells in love and God?

4:16 _____

18. What is our position at the day of judgment because of our love for God?

4:17 _____

19. What does this verse say removes fear?

Rom 8:15

4:18 _____

20. People who fear what God will do to them or have them do for Him are not fully convinced of what fact?

4:18 _____

21. What fact really motivates our love for God? (This is a normal human trait and is not necessarily wrong.)

Eph 2:3-5 - loved us even when we were in sin

4:19 _____

22. This is a very strong statement John makes. In what way may the believer prove his love for God whom he has never seen?

4:20 _____

23. What is God's commandment to the Christian here through His spokesman John?
1 Pet 4:8 - one of the things this means

4:21

First Letter of John - Chapter 5

John concludes his letter by presenting faith as a very important principle which will see the child of God through every conflict. He recaps some important things in the letter such as: being born of God, belief in Jesus, eternal life is in Jesus, resisting temptation, not committing sin, loving fellow believers and overcoming the world and its influence on our lives.

1. Who is born of God?

5:1 _____

2. John turns a statement which he made earlier around in this verse. How may we tell that we love other believers?

5:2 _____

3. How is the love of God displayed in the life of the believer?

5:3 _____

4. Why do you think the commandments of God are not a burden to keep?
Matt 11:28-30 - yoke easy burden light

5:3 _____

5. Who has the power to overcome the world? What do you think John means by overcoming the world?

5:4-5 _____

6. What weapon or thing in our lives do we use to overcome the world, or any obstacle?
1 Cor 15:57 - God gives victory through Jesus

5:4 _____

7. Who does John say in this verse that bears witness to Christ's coming, and why?
John 1:31-33 - baptized by John at start of ministry;
Mark 14:24 - blood of covenant;
John 15:26 - Spirit will testify

5:6 _____

8. Name three who bear to Jesus' ministry and the new covenant?

5:7-8 _____

9. The Spirit is plain, but what do you think John means by the water and the Blood?

John 1:31- start of ministry; John 19:34 - end of ministry;

Hebrews 9:12 & Hebrews 13:12 - fulfillment of ministry

5:7-8 _____

10. Whose witness is the greatest according to John?

Acts 17:31 - raised Jesus from dead; John 5:36 - works testify.

5:9 _____

11. Who has the witness or testimony with himself / herself and why?

Romans 8:16; Galatians 4:6

5:10 _____

12. What gift has God given to the believer?

Romans 6:23 - wages of sin; John 3:16

5:11 _____

13. What is the difference between the believer and the non-believer?

John 3:18; John 3:36

5:12 _____

14. John once again gives a reason for writing to them. What is it?

List all of the reasons you can find he is writing this letter.

Look back: 1 Jn 1:4; 1 Jn2:1; 1 Jn 2:13; 1 Jn 2:14; 1 Jn 2:21

5:13 _____

15. How can we have confidence that God hears us when we pray and make requests of Him?
Ephesians 3:12 - boldness & confidence; Hebrews 4:16 - confidence at Throne of Grace

5:14 _____

16. What does this verse say that we are assured of if He hears us?

5:15 _____

17. In light of these two verses can you explain why we do not always get what we pray for?

5:14-15 _____

18. According to what you know about God's will and knowing what His will is, how do you think you can know how to pray God's will? (May be several ways.)

5:14-15 _____

19. If we see a brother or sister in Christ sinning, what are we to do according to John?

5:16 _____

20. If we pray, what will happen to the brother or sister? (Note: Bible commentaries are not clear what is meant by "sin unto death", although many explanations and theories do abound.)

5:16 _____

21. What constitutes sin, according to this verse?

5:17 _____

22. What does the believer do regarding sin? (May be premeditated sin??) And in what way can Satan and his spirits affect the believer?

James 1:27; Jude 1:24

5:18 _____

23. Contrast the condition of the believer and the rest of the world.

Galatians 1:4; 2 Cor 4:4; Eph 2:2

5:19 _____

24. What valuable thing has Christ given to the believer through the Holy Spirit?

Luke 24:45

5:20 _____

25. In the last eight verses, vss. 13 - 20, John uses the word “know” seven times. What are the things John says we know?

5:13 know _____

5:15 know _____

5:15 know _____

5:18 know _____

5:19 know _____

5:20 know _____

5:20 know _____

26. What is the last bit of advice John gives?

1 Cor 10:14; 1 Thess 1:9

5:21 _____

Comment on First John 2:16

Jesus was able to resist the temptation offered by Satan because He had a profound sense of what it meant to be a child of God. He gave us an example of what it means to live our lives as Abba's child. When Satan came to Jesus he made a series of offers. First he said, why don't you turn these stones to bread? You will be a satisfied man. Why don't you throw yourself down from a high place? The angels will protect you. You will be an impressive man. Why don't you worship me and do things my way. I will give you kingdoms, governments and the riches of the world. The devil seemed to be offering everything a person could want and more! Jesus said no to it all. Jesus lived with a deep sense that He was Abba's child, and for Jesus that was enough. He didn't need to be

impressive, successful or famous. Jesus had a satisfaction that the devil could never understand. In effect Jesus was saying to the enemy “what you are offering does not begin to match the value of what I have as Abba's child.

The things Satan offered were like trash compared to what Jesus had as God's son. The same is true today. All that the enemy might offer you or me, no matter how good it might look at the moment, is like garbage compared to what we receive as a child of God.

Not only did Jesus see Himself as Abba's child but we can also. You and I ordinary people but we can call God by this same intimate name. You and I can know that God is a Father.

As Abba, God has done so much for each of us. We are heirs to much more than we can know. What I have today does not begin to compare with all that the Father has in store for me. But I am constantly trading it for trash which I think will satisfy the strong desires of my flesh.

Often Christians ask questions like: How much sin can I have in my life before I am in the danger zone? Are there low levels of sin that are okay for me? Or at least they, or us, ask them with actions and hearts, not necessarily with words. These are the wrong questions for followers of Christ to ask, either way. The correct question is: Am I growing more and more sensitive and responsive to Jesus in my life? You see, the real question is directional. Am I moving toward the light or away from it? Or do I know? The truth is, it will take some spiritual discernment to get the right answer. The questions I need to be asking, when it comes to sin, are directional and not quantitative. Too often I want to give myself a spiritual pat-on-the-back, because I am not committing heinous and serious sinful actions. What I have to remember is that we all start at different points. It might take more courage and conviction for a kid from Gadsden, Hokes Bluff, or Ballplay not to accept an offer of drugs from a friend, than it does for another person to give most of what he owns to the poor or to missions. Because we all start at different places when we evaluate ourselves, we can't qualify our actions.

The key question I need to ask is: Am I moving toward God or away from God? Our closeness to God is difficult for us as individuals to judge. I know we can not judge it by how willing God is to use us. I do not understand that, but I know it is true. Sometimes God will use a person to do a work for Him, that we would never think He would use. If we are going to effectively battle the “sin thing” in our lives, we need to recognize that the most dangerous sins are sometimes subtle and socially acceptable sins. All sin is wrong and produces separation from God. The scripture is clear about this. We often view some sins as minor and sometimes the very attitudes and actions we secretly label as acceptable can be far more dangerous than we might ever dream. How does this action or attitude move me out of light and into darkness? Many times I have the attitude “I don't have major sin in my life. I don't need a major overhaul like some people do. I just need a tune-up.”

But this all said, we must always keep in mind God is our Abba. Foremost in our minds, when we are tempted, must be the value of being Abba's child. Remember all the value and responsibility of that position. His love and His forgiveness are unconditional for His children. When we fail in our battle against the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, as John said, we separate ourselves from God. Satan's forces get a victory and the price can be high for us.