**1 John 5, 10/5/2018**

**Opening**

* Do you look like your father or your mother? When you went out, did people ever say, “You must be a son or a daughter of so and so”? Why?
  + Did people ever say, “You don’t like your father or your mother”? Why not?
  + For Christians, can people recognize our Christ-like characteristics? Why or why not? What are those characteristics?
* What is the key difference between Judaism and Christianity?
  + How important is that differences? Why?
  + Implications and manifestations of the differences?
* How important is faith in Christ in our lives?
  + Shall/can we love our brothers and sisters? What is the source of such love?
  + If our brothers or sisters commit sins, what shall we do? Why?
  + How to build up our faith in God and in Christ?
* Do you remember what we discussed last Friday? Test the Spirits. God Is Love.
  + What is the overall theme of 1 John? Love. Abide.
  + How would Apostle John end the book? Faith in the Son as the Way to Life.
* Outline (ESV Study Bible)

1. Overcoming Antichrist by Confession of the Son ([2:18–3:10](https://www.esv.org/1+John+2%3A18-3%3A10/))
   1. Warning and assurance ([2:18–27](https://www.esv.org/1+John+2%3A18-27/))
   2. Christians as children of God ([2:28–3:3](https://www.esv.org/1+John+2%3A28-3%3A3/))
   3. Children of God and the forsaking of sin ([3:4–10](https://www.esv.org/1+John+3%3A4-10/))
2. Overcoming Evil by Listening to the Apostle ([3:11–4:6](https://www.esv.org/1+John+3%3A11-4%3A6/))
   1. Overcoming Cain’s malice ([3:11–24](https://www.esv.org/1+John+3%3A11-24/))
   2. Overcoming the Antichrist’s deception ([4:1–6](https://www.esv.org/1+John+4%3A1-6/))
3. The Assurance of God through the Love of God ([4:7–21](https://www.esv.org/1+John+4%3A7-21/))
   1. The perfecting of God’s love ([4:7–12](https://www.esv.org/1+John+4%3A7-12/))
   2. The assurance of God’s Spirit ([4:13–21](https://www.esv.org/1+John+4%3A13-21/))
4. Faith in the Son as the Way to Life ([5:1–12](https://www.esv.org/1+John+5%3A1-12/))
   1. Faith keeps the commandments of God ([5:1–5](https://www.esv.org/1+John+5%3A1-5/))
   2. Faith receives the testimony of God ([5:6–12](https://www.esv.org/1+John+5%3A6-12/))
5. Final Call to Faith and Understanding ([5:13–21](https://www.esv.org/1+John+5%3A13-21/))
   1. The confidence that faith furnishes ([5:13](https://www.esv.org/1+John+5%3A13/))
   2. The prayer that faith enables ([5:14–17](https://www.esv.org/1+John+5%3A14-17/))
   3. The understanding that faith grants ([5:18–21](https://www.esv.org/1+John+5%3A18-21/))

**Overcoming the World (5:1-5)**

* 1 John 5:1–12 Faith in the Son as the Way to Life. So far, John has spoken much of love and obedience but not so much of faith. The emphasis now shifts to believing in the Son. Of 1 John’s 10 references to believing, seven are in Chapter 5. ESV Study Bible.
  + Can you find out those references to believing in Chapter 5?
* 1 John 5:1–5 Faith Keeps the Commandments of God. The road to love – such a great concern of John’s – is paved with faith in Christ. ESV Study Bible.
* 1 John 5:2 Obeying God’s commandments in Scripture is the way to love the children of God because God’s commandments show believers the true way to do good for others (cf. Rom. 13:9; Gal. 5:14). Love and law are complementary. ESV Study Bible.
* Discussion
  + If a Christian does not love his/her brothers and sisters, what can be said about him/her?

**Testimony Concerning the Son of God (5:6-12)**

* 1 John 5:6–12 Having taught and urged so many things in his letter, John underscores the basis for his authority: the testimony of God (v. 9) in the coming of Jesus, which John personally witnessed. ESV Study Bible.
* 1 John 5:7–8 three that testify. The gospel is not based on merely human testimony. John indicates that there are in fact “three that testify,” namely, the witness of the Spirit, the water baptism of Jesus (including the “Spirit descending on him like a dove” and the voice of the Father from heaven; Mark 1:10–11; cf. John 1:32–34), and the blood (which “cleanses us from all unrighteousness”; 1 John 1:7). These three agree, thereby providing persuasive confirmation for believing in Jesus as the “Son of God” (5:10). The OT taught that every charge must be confirmed by “two or three witnesses” (Deut. 17:6; 19:15), a principle continued in the NT (Matt. 18:16; 2 Cor. 13:1). ESV Study Bible.
* 1 John 5:11 The testimony supporting faith in Christ is not a vague spiritual inkling but has definite substance. It is the message of Jesus’ incarnation, death, and resurrection, through which eternal life has been made available through faith in his Son. ESV Study Bible.
* Discussion
  + Where does faith in Christ come from?
  + How to increase our faith?

**That You May Know (5:13-21)**

* 1 John 5:13–21 Final Call to Faith and Understanding. John summarizes and extends many things already discussed. “Know” occurs seven times in these verses, indicating his focus on the assurance and even certainty of Christian faith and salvation. ESV Study Bible.
* 1 John 5:14–17 The Prayer that Faith Enables. Prayer is central to a living faith. By refining his readers’ understanding of prayer, John promotes healthy and growing faith. ESV Study Bible.
* 1 John 5:15 To know that he hears us in whatever we ask is enough, because communion with God is the goal of prayer. We have the requests. Human experience testifies that Christians do not always receive all the things they ask from God, even things that seemingly accord with his revealed will. This verse must be understood in light of other passages of Scripture which show that praying according to God’s will includes the need to pray in faith (Matt. 21:22; James 1:6), with patience (Luke 18:1–8), in obedience (Ps. 66:18; 1 Pet. 3:12), and in submission to God’s greater wisdom (Luke 22:42; Rom. 8:28; 1 Pet. 4:19). ESV Study Bible.
* 1 John 5:16 Mark 3:28-29. “Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin.”
* 1 John 5:18–21 The Understanding that Faith Grants. The letter concludes on a note of high confidence and deep spiritual insight. ESV Study Bible.
* 1 John 5:18 He who was born of God is a reference to Jesus Christ. ESV Study Bible.
  + Begotten – referring to Jesus Christ.
* Discussion
  + Do you have faith that God hears our prayers? Why or why not?
  + How to build up our faith in God and in Christ?

**Wrapping up**

* What are your favorite verses in this chapter?

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