

# Review of First John

A fast snapshot of each chapter to overview the 105 verses in John's comforting epistle instead of 47 sermons.

# First John 1

**Theme: Fellowship with Christ**

John's comforting epistle presents Jesus as Son of God in the flesh for salvation and fellowship.

## Short Outline

- 1-2 Preamble – introduced Jesus the eternal Word
- 3-4 Purpose – fellowship with God/Jesus and joy
- 5-7 Condition – perfectly holy by blood cleansing
- 8-10 Forgiveness – sin is not denied but confessed

Like a summary of his Gospel opening, John declared the deity of the Word that became Jesus the Son with a very real flesh body. His desire for readers was to have fellowship and joy with God and His Son like apostles had. Since God is perfectly holy, we cannot play with sin. Rather than deny sin, we may have forgiveness by confessing sins to God. The great value of Jesus' blood will even cover your sins overlooked or unknown.

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, of the Word of life;

3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Lesson: *Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ and Messiah of God.*

Lesson: *Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God by incarnation.*

Lesson: *Jesus the Son of God had a real, flesh, human body.*

Lesson: *Jesus is God the Eternal Word in His divine nature.*

Lesson: *Fellowship with one another is with God Himself.*

Lesson: *Walking in holiness will cover sins of ignorance.*

# First John 2

**Theme: *Character of True Disciples***

Gospel light revealed Christ and rules for pleasing God and avoiding the world and antichrist heretics.

## Short Outline

**1-2** Jesus is the perfect cure for sinners worldwide

**3-6** Conduct, not a profession, proves eternal life

**7-14** True light for noble living is for brotherly love

**15-19** Disciples hate the world and antichrist heretics

**20-27** The Spirit taught certain Christ truth for safety

**28-29** Confidence at His coming is by righteousness

Jesus is the Advocate for any sin, but His light should produce brotherly love to avoid the world's dark lives. Character and conduct over any claims is a theme John repeated here. Disciples will also hate the world and not be moved by defectors. The Spirit had taught absolute Christ truth to hold fast against seducing liars.

1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. 20 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

Lesson: *Whole world is not all (2:2; 5:19), but also Gentiles.*

Lesson: *Brotherly love is new by light, emphasis, example.*

Lesson: *The age categories are Christian maturity, not age.*

Lesson: *Knowing all things is Christ truth; note but twice.*

Lesson: *Grasp the heresy – denying Jesus is Christ and Son.*

Lesson: *Confidence at Jesus coming is by abiding in Christ.*

# First John 3

## **Theme: *Adoption and Its Evidence***

God's great love adopted us to eternal glory, and the evidence and proof is not sinning and loving brethren.

### Short Outline

- 1-3 God's love in adoption and future glorification
- 4-10 Habitual sin without change is a child of Satan
- 11-15 Brotherly love contrary to Cain is eternal life
- 16-21 Brotherly love like God's love is eternal life
- 22-24 Spiritual men obey, please, believe, and love

Look! God's love not only saved us from our sins but adopted us as sons to be glorified like Jesus. We cannot keep sinning comfortably, for we are born again with a new nature. This new nature loves brethren sacrificially; lack of love shows a murderer without eternal life. Let us love to prove eternal life for confidence before God and for Him to answer prayers.

1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God ... the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

Lesson: *Adoption is the greatest gift of salvation, for purity.*

Lesson: *Absolute denial of sinning is understood relatively.*

Lesson: *A child of God with the Spirit cannot habitually sin.*

Lesson: *The great evidence of eternal life is love, not faith.*

Lesson: *God is greater than our heart by judging harsher.*

Lesson: *Spirit presence is proved by obedience, faith, love.*

# First John 4

**Theme: Truth, Faith, and Love**

Teachers must be tried by the Bible,  
and brotherly love like God's will  
cause boldness at Judgment.

## Short Outline

- 1-6 Test all teachers by Christ truth and the world
- 7-13 Brotherly love by His nature, example, Spirit
- 14-16 Faith in Christ truth and love prove eternal life
- 17-19 Love of God cures the fear of Judgment Day
- 20-21 Love of God is never without brotherly love

False teachers were common, so John gave two tests – apostolic doctrine and rejected by the world. Amen! God is love, and His children will love like He does. He has given us His Spirit for the power to love. Believing Christ truth proves eternal life. We love God because He first loved us, and it fits us for Judgment, but it cannot exist without loving the brethren also.

1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

Lesson: *The Christ heresy here is denying a real flesh body.*

Lesson: *The world and apostolic truth are forever enemies.*

Lesson: *The spirit of truth or error is by the apostolic faith.*

Lesson: *God is love, though we reject Arminian fantasies.*

Lesson: *Order is by verb tenses: dwelling before confession.*

Lesson: *Perfect love is like God's and it produces boldness.*

# First John 5

**Theme: *Jesus is the Son of God***

God gave many witnesses that Jesus is His Son, and faith in Christ will overcome this wicked world.

## Short Outline

- 1-3 Faith, love, and obedience prove sons of God
- 4-5 Faith in Jesus is born of God to defeat world
- 6-10 God's nine witnesses of Jesus are certain truth
- 11-15 Faith in Jesus is eternal life and helps prayers
- 16-18 Sons of God do not sin, especially unto death
- 19-21 Sons of God are different from world by grace

This chapter is powerful and beautiful about Jesus the Son of God. Faith in Him overcomes the world. The Father loves the Son and gave fabulous proof of Him, which we believe for evidence of eternal life. Faith also has confidence in prayer, in forgiveness of sins, in holy living, in ultimate fellowship with God and Jesus.

1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. 10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Lesson: *Order is by verb tenses: new birth preceds belief.*

Lesson: *God's commands are not grievous, but life-building.*

Lesson: *Verse 5:7 is as valid as any other verse in the Bible.*

Lesson: *Three on earth then, in heaven now, in earth now.*

Lesson: *John wrote to believers to prove life and build faith.*

Lesson: *Sin unto death is apostasy from Christ to antichrist.*

# Review of First John

Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God?  
Are you proving faith by obeying Him?  
Do you love brethren like God loves?  
Is fellowship with God maximized?