

1, 2, 3 John & Jude

By

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1 John

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I. The Lord wants us to have fellowship with Him - 1:1-2:2

A. Fellowship with God is possible - 1:1-4

1. Four ways the disciples learned about Christ - 1:1

Christ was from the beginning

Christ was in the beginning with the Father and Holy Spirit - John 1:1

The Father willed the creation of the heavens and earth - Genesis 1:1

The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters - Genesis 1:2

The Son spoke all creation into existence - Genesis 1:3; John 1:3

The disciples heard Christ

They heard Him after the resurrection - John 20:19

The disciples had seen Christ with their eyes

They saw Him after the resurrection - John 20:20-23

The disciples had carefully looked on Christ

The disciples really looked at Him during His ministry - Mark 3:13-14

More than 500 saw Him at once after His resurrection - 1 Corinthians 15:6

The disciples handled Christ after His resurrection

Christ invited them to feel His wounds after the resurrection - John 20:24-29

The disciples knew that Christ is the Word of life

The Word became flesh and lived among them - John 1:14

2. The disciples came to know that Christ is eternal - 1:2

The life of Christ was revealed to the disciples

Christ was manifested in the flesh - 1 Timothy 3:16

Christ was manifested to take away our sins - 1 John 3:5, 8

The disciples had seen Him and knew that Jesus is the Christ

John also wanted us to know and believe that Jesus is the Christ - John 20:30-31

The disciples were official witnesses of His resurrection

The disciples were official witnesses of His resurrection - Acts 1:21-22

John is telling us about that eternal life which was with the Father

Christ was in the bosom of the Father - John 1:18

Christ came from the Father and into the world - John 16:28

This is the life that was revealed to the disciples

Christ was made manifest to the disciples - Romans 16:25-27

3. John wanted Christians to have fellowship with Christ - 1:3

The disciples has seen Christ

John could verify that his testimony was true - John 19:35

The disciples had been eyewitnesses of His majesty - 2 Peter 1:16

The disciples had walked with Christ and listened to Him

Christ promised to make His disciples “fishers of men” - Mark 1:17-18

Christ shared His life with the disciples - Mark 3:13-15

Christ called His disciples friends and shared all things - John 15:15

Christ called the disciples His brethren - John 20:17

Christ also calls us His brethren - Hebrews 2:11; Romans 8:16-17

John is now telling us what they had learned

They had learned to love one another - John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:7-11

They learned to love the Samaritans - Luke 9:51-56; Acts 9:14-17

This led to churches starting throughout Samaria - Acts 9:31

John did this so we can have fellowship with other Christians

The disciples (and we) become partakers of the divine nature - 2 Peter 1:4

Paul enjoyed this fellowship with other Christians from the first day - Phil. 1:5

We enjoy that fellowship as we walk in the light - 1 John 1:7

John did this so we can have fellowship with the Father

In the presence of God, there is fullness of joy - Psalm 16:11

We will not enjoy that fellowship when we are walking in darkness - 1 John 1:6

John did this so we can have fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ

“You have made me full of joy in your presence” - Acts 2:28-32

“We rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory” - 1 Peter 1:8

Paul learned through the fellowship of His sufferings - Phil. 3:10

4. John wanted Christians to have a joy that was full - 1:4

John told why he was writing this book

Christ said His joy remains in us so our joy will be full - John 15:11

John wanted to be face to face so that the believers’ joy may be full - 2 John 1:12

We are to count it all joy when we fall into various trials - James 1:2

The testing of our faith produces patience - James 1:3

John wanted the joy of Christians to be full

John the Baptist said, “...this joy of mine is fulfilled” (complete) - John 3:29

Kingdom of God...is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit - Rom.14:17

B. Fellowship happens as we walk in the Light - 1:5-7

1. God is light and has no darkness in Him - 1:5

This is the message the disciples heard from Christ

Christ is a Light to lighten Jews and Gentiles - Luke 2:32; John 12:34-36

This is the message that John is giving to us

Christ is the Light of the world - John 8:12

God is light and in Him is no darkness at all

Christ is that True Light - John 1:9-14

2. God cannot have fellowship if we walk in darkness - 1:6

We could be deceiving ourselves when we say we have fellowship with Him

Light and darkness cannot be in the same place at the same time - John 3:20-21

Darkness is not able to overcome light - John 1:5

The land experienced total darkness while Christ bore our sins - Matt. 27:45-46

We are not having fellowship if we walk in darkness

We were once darkness but now are in the light of the Lord - Ephesians 5:8

We are lying if we are walking in darkness and claim to walk in the light

One who hates his brother is still in darkness - 1 John 2:9-11

We are not practicing the truth

To believe on the name of the Son and to love one another - 1 John 3:22-23

3. God enjoys our fellowship as we walk in the light - 1:7

It is different if we walk in the light as He is in the light

Those who follow Christ will not walk in darkness - John 8:12

We will have fellowship with one another if we walk in the light

The true church is the fellowship Satan is forced to recognize - Ephesians 3:9-10

The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin

Those God has cleansed are no longer common - Acts 10:15, 11:7-9

Christ cleanses the church by the Word - Ephesians 5:26

Christ purifies His own special people - Titus 2:14

The blood of Christ is the source that cleanses our conscience - Hebrews 9:13-14

Confession of sin to the Lord is for the purpose of cleansing - 1 John 1:9

This is why we are to come boldly to the Lord to confess - Hebrews 4:15-16

C. Fellowship happens as we experience forgiveness and cleansing - 1:8-10

1. We cannot say that we have no sin - 1:8

Someone might try to say he has no sin

(This would be a person who says that he does not sin any longer)

We are only righteous because we stand in the righteousness of Christ - 1 John 3:7

When we say we no longer sin, we are only deceiving ourselves

Sin is no longer to be our master but we still sin - Rom. 6:12-14; 1 Cor. 10:12

God provides a way of escape but we must choose that escape - 1 Cor. 10:13

This is why we should examine ourselves regularly - 1 Corinthians 11:27-32

This means that the truth is not in us

This is a person who says he is a Christian but does not obey God - 1 John 2:4

The person saying this rejects the entire Trinity - John 14:6, 16:31, 17:17

2. We can experience forgiveness and cleansing - 1:9

If we confess our sins God is just to forgive us

God is both just and the justifier of one who has faith in Jesus - Romans 3:24-26

We are justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law - Romans 3:28

Having been justified by faith we have peace with God - Romans 5:1

If we confess our sins God is faithful to forgive us

God promised that He will remember the sins of Israel no more - Hebrews 8:12

God gave that same promise to Gentiles as well - Hebrews 10:12-17

If we confess He is faithful to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

God cleanses our conscience from dead works so we can serve God - Heb. 10:14

3. We would make Christ a liar if we said we never sinned - 1:10

If a person says he has never sinned

The rich young ruler said he had keep all these things (the Law) - Mark 10:20

His loved his money (his idol) more than he loved God - Mark 10:21-23

That person is calling God a liar

God says that all have sinned so that every mouth will be stopped - Rom. 3:10-20

The first one to call God a liar was Satan - Genesis 3:4; John 8:44

That person is showing that His word is not in him

The rich young ruler heard but did not obey - Matthew 19:22; James 1:22

D. Fellowship happens because Christ is our Advocate - 2:1-2

1. Christ is our Advocate - 2:1

John called those who received this letter “My little children”

Christ referred to His disciples as “Little children” - John 13:33

Paul also used “little children” to refer to Christians - Galatians 4:19

John said that he wrote so that they may not sin

John reminded all Christians that our sins are forgiven - 1 John 2:12

John reminded all Christians that we are not to love the world - 1 John 5:21

However, John knew that everyone commits sins

John wanted all true Christians to avoid living in shame - 1 John 2:28-29

John wanted all true Christians to know the Lord overcame Satan - 1 John 4:4

John did not want true Christians to be deceived - 1 John 3:7

John wanted all true Christians to show love by our actions - 1 John 3:18

John made it clear we have an Advocate with the Father

Christ said the Father would give us another Advocate - John 14:26

That Help is the Holy Spirit - John 14:26

Jesus Christ is the Righteous Advocate

Christ is our Advocate sitting at the right hand of the Father - Hebrews 10:12

Christ sent the Holy Spirit to be our Helper - John 15:26

2. Christ is our propitiation - 2:2

Christ Himself is our propitiation

God loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins - 1 John 4:10

The Father set forth Christ to provide propitiation by His blood - Rom 3:23-25

(the word propitiation means “to be satisfied” the Father was satisfied)

Christ is the propitiation for our sins

Christ made propitiation for the sins of the people (us) - Hebrews 2:17

Christ sets all true believers free from the fear of death - Hebrews 2:14-15

Christ is the propitiation for our sins and others also

Christ satisfied the requirement to pay for the sins of all - John 3:16-18

All those who hear the Word and believe in Christ have life - John 5:24

Christ is the propitiation for the sin of the whole world

Christ came to take away the sin of the world - John 1:29

Christ finished that payment on the cross - John 19:30

II. The Lord wants us to learn and grow - 2:3-27

A. God tells us how to learn to walk in the Light - 2:3-6

1. Obedience is one result of knowing God - 2:3

This is how we show that we truly know Christ

We are to love in deed and in truth - 1 John 3:18

We show it by keeping His commandments

Christ said the Great Commandment is to love God - Matthew 22:37-38

Christ said the Second is to love your neighbor as yourself - Matthew 22:39-40

Christ gave the new commandment to the disciples - John 13:34-35

“...love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”

2. A lack of obedience shows one does not know God - 2:4

Many say they know Him but do not keep His commandments

He who does not love his brother abides in death - 1 John 3:14

Whoever hates his brother is a murderer - 1 John 3:15

Such a person is a liar

Christ explained this when He explained murder - Matthew 5:21-24

The love of God was poured out in our hearts at salvation - Romans 5:5

That person does not have the truth in him

Christ said you shall know the truth which makes you free - John 8:32

Christ said that the Son is the One who makes us free - John 8:36

3. Those who obey have the love of God perfected in their lives - 2:5

Whoever keeps His Word

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him - 1 John 4:15

This means obeying the Word and not just hearing the Word - James 1:22

The love of God is perfected in him

God abides in us and His Word is complete and changes our lives - 1 John 4:12

This does not mean that we are perfect (without sin) - Philippians 3:12

God's power is brought to maturity in our weakness - 2 Corinthians 12:9

This is how we know that we are in Christ

God is working in our lives to bring us to spiritual maturity - Romans 12:2

4. This is the result of abiding in Christ - 2:6

All Christians are to abide in Christ

We will bear no fruit if we do not abide in Christ - John 15:4

We abide in the love of Christ as we keep His commandments - John 15:10

All Christians ought to walk just as Christ walked

It is the love of Christ for us that compels us - 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Christians will bear much fruit as we abide in Christ - John 15:8

B. God tells us how to learn to walk in love - 2:7-11

1. The old commandment is to love one another - 2:7

John said that He did not write a new commandment

Christ gave the new commandment as He taught the disciples - John 13:34-35

John wrote an old commandment we have had from the beginning

The old commandment is the great commandment - Matthew 22:37-39

The old commandment is the Word which had been heard

That commandment summarizes the entire Old Testament - Matthew 22:40

2. The new commandment was given by Christ - 2:8

John wrote the new commandment Christ gave all of us

God showed us how to obey the new commandment in His strength - 1 John 4:11

Christ says we show our love by keeping His commandments - John 14:15

This commandment was true in Christ and is to be true in us

Christ fulfilled the new commandment by death on the cross - Philippians 2:5-8

The present darkness is passing away

Those not following Christ are in darkness - John 8:12

Christ is the life which gives light to mankind - John 1:4

Christ said those who follow Him will not abide in darkness - John 12:46

Scripture says to expose the unfruitful works of darkness - Ephesians 5:8-13

Those who hate are still in darkness - 1 John 2:11

The true light is already shining

God is light and there is no darkness in Him - 1 John 1:5

Christ is the Light of the world - John 8:12

Christ said to let our light shine by our good works - Matthew 5:16

3. A person is still in darkness if he hates his brother - 2:9

Some may say that they are in the light

Those who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light - John 3:20

Some may still hate a brother

Those who hate Christ hate the Father also - John 15:23-25

The one who says he loves God and hates his brother is a liar - 1 John 4:20

Such individuals are still in darkness at the present time

We ourselves were also once foolish...hateful and hating one another - Titus 3:3

God in His kindness and love saved us by His mercy - Titus 3:4-7

Those who have believed in God are to be careful to do good works - Titus 3:8

4. A person who loves his brother abides in the light - 2:10

Those who love their brothers abide in the light

Christ came to give light to those in darkness and the shadow of death - Luke 1:79

The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Spirit - Romans 5:5

True Christians love, do good and pray for those who persecute them - Matt. 5:44

There is no occasion of stumbling in such brothers

Christians hate the things they are doing when they sin - Romans 7:15

That is why we continually realize our need for cleansing - 1 John 1:9

5. A person who hates his brother is blinded by darkness - 2:11

One who hates his brother is in darkness

Whoever truly believes in Christ should not abide in darkness - John 12:46

We have been called out of darkness into His marvelous light - 1 Peter 2:9

One who hates his brother walks in darkness

God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all - 1 John 1:5

(light and darkness cannot be in the same place at the same time)

Christ will bring to light the hidden things of darkness - 1 Corinthians 4:5

One who hates does not know where he is going

If the light in a person is darkness, how great is that darkness - Matthew 6:23

He does not know because darkness has blinded his eyes

If we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth - 1 John 1:6

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord - Ephesians 5:8

We are to cast off the darkness and put on the armor of light - Romans 13:12

C. God tells us how to grow to maturity - 2:12-14

1. John wrote about those who are spiritual little children - 2:12

John wrote to those who are little children

Little children caused Paul to be greatly concerned - Galatians 4:19-20

Those who are little children know that their sins are forgiven

They know the Father is satisfied with Christ's payment for sin - 1 John 4:10

Spiritual little children know forgiveness is because they believe in Christ

Little children do know that their sins are forgiven - 1 John 2:1

2. John wrote about those who are spiritually mature - 2:13

John wrote to those who are fathers

These are godly Christians who are helping other Christians grow - 1 Tim. 3:6-7

Spiritual fathers have gotten to know Him who is from the beginning

They show others how to grow by example and teaching - 1 Thess. 2:10-12

John wrote to those who are spiritual young men

Spiritual young men have overcome the wicked one (see below)

John wrote to those who are little children

Spiritual little children have gotten to know the Father

They are enjoying fellowship with the Father and Son - 1 John 1:3

3. John explained the characteristics of a spiritual young man - 2:14

John wrote to those who are spiritual fathers

They are able to exhort and convict through sound doctrine - Titus 1:9

Spiritual fathers have gotten to know Him who is from the beginning

John wrote three key characteristics of spiritual young men

Spiritual young men are strong

This strength does not come from within themselves - 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

This strength is given through abiding in Christ - John 15:5; Philippians 4:13

Spiritual young men have the Word of God abiding in them

They have learned to meditate on the Word day and night - Joshua 1:7-8

Spiritual young men have overcome the wicked one

They understand and apply the victory that we have in Christ - 1 John 4:4

D. God tells us why we are not to love the world - 2:15-17

1. Those who love the world do not love the Father - 2:15

True Christians will not love the world

Demas loved the present world and forsook Paul - 2 Timothy 4:10

No man can serve two masters - Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13

False Christians do not have the love of the Father in them

The love of God was poured out in our hearts by the Spirit at salvation - Rom. 5:5

The world hates Christ and that causes them to hate Christians - John 15:18-20

2. The three ways that Satan tries to tempt people - 2:16

There are various kinds of temptation in the world

Satan tempted Christ in each of the areas listed - Luke 4:1-13

This includes the lust of the flesh

Satan tempted Christ to turn stones to bread - Luke 4:3

Christ answered by quoting the Word of God - Deuteronomy 8:3

The love of Christ gives us the desire to resist temptation - 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

This includes the lust of the eyes

Satan tempted Christ by offering the world without the cross - Luke 4:5-7

Christ answered by quoting the Word of God - Deuteronomy 6:13

The Holy Spirit gives us His power to resist Satan's temptations - Luke 24:49

This includes the pride of life

Satan tempted Christ by encouraging Him to impress the people - Luke 4:9-10

Christ answered by quoting the Word of God - Deuteronomy 6:16

The Word of God is our source to escape Satan's temptations - 1 Cor.10:13

These things are not from the Father

God cannot be tempted with evil nor tempt any person - James 1:13

These things are from the world

3. The things of the world are temporary - 2:17

The world is passing away

The lusts of the world are passing away

All who do the will of God will abide forever

We have been born through incorruptible seed - 1 Peter 1:23

E. God tells us how to recognize the truth - 2:18-20

1. Today there are many antichrists in the world - 2:18

John tells the Christians that it is the last hour

Many exalt their own teachings above the Bible - 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

We have heard that the Antichrist is coming

The real antichrist will deceive with great signs - 2 Thess. 2:9; Rev. 13:11

Already there are many antichrists in the world

All who deny that Jesus is the Christ are liars - 1 John 2:22-23

This is how we know it is the last hour

This period is also called the last days - 2 Timothy 3:1-7

Peter warned that scoffers would come in the last days - 2 Peter 3:3

2. These antichrists separate themselves from true Christians - 2:19

These antichrists separate themselves from true Christians

Some try to imitate Christ but not be in the Light - 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

These antichrists are not true Christians

There are many antichrists that deny that Christ came in the flesh - 2 John 7

They would have continued with us if they were true Christians

Those who choose to deny Christ will also be denied by Him - 2 Timothy 2:12

They went out from us so that they would be revealed

They will speak diverse things to draw disciples after themselves - Acts 20:30

That revealing shows that they were never true Christians

Christ will say at the judgment, "I never knew you." - Matthew 7:23

3. The Lord has given all true Christians the Holy Spirit - 2:20

True Christians have an anointing from the Holy One

Christ promised we would receive the Holy Spirit - Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8

We receive the Holy Spirit as our guarantee of salvation - Ephesians 1:13-14

Those who do not have the Holy Spirit are not Christians - Romans 8:9

The Holy Spirit is the One who will reveal all things to us

The Holy Spirit is the One who teaches us all things - John 14:26

The Holy Spirit will not reveal these things to non-Christians - 1 Cor. 2:13-14

F. God tells us why we need to depend on the Holy Spirit - 2:21-23

1. John wrote because Christians knew this truth - 2:21

John did not write because Christians did not know the truth

The Holy Spirit reminded the apostles of the things Christ taught - John 14:26

Christ gave us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth - John 16:13

John said that the Christians knew this truth

The apostles faithfully taught what Christ taught them - Acts 2:42

John said that no lie is of the truth

Even the demons knew that Christ taught the truth - Luke 4:34

Those who left the teaching of the apostles went out - 1 John 2:19

2. John wrote why antichrists deny Christ - 2:22

Those who deny Jesus is the Christ are liars

The religious leaders denied Christ in the presence of Pilate - Acts 3:13

The religious leaders asked for a murderer instead - Acts 3:14

The religious leaders said, "We have no king but Caesar!" - John 19:15

Any person who denies the Father is an antichrist

People can also deny God by their works - Titus 1:15-16

Any person who denies the Son is also an antichrist

Those who deny Christ to men will be denied by Christ to the Father - Matt. 10:33

Such people will also be denied before the angels of God - Luke 12:9

False teachers will deny the Lord who bought them - 2 Peter 2:1

3. John wrote that those who deny Christ deny the Father also - 2:23

Those who deny Christ teach us another thing

The Jewish religious leaders claimed to believe in the Father - John 8:41

Christ told those leaders they were of their father the devil - John 8:44

The Jews were ready to stone Christ for His statement - John 8:56-59

Those who deny Christ also deny the Father

Christ said the religious leaders had not known the Father - John 8:55

Those who confess Christ also confess the Father

Belief in the heart and confession with the mouth is salvation - Romans 10:9-10

Those who confess Jesus is the Son of God have the Father - 1 John 4:15

G. God tells us the Holy Spirit teaches us the truth - 2:24-27

1. We are to abide in the truth we have had from the beginning - 2:24

Christians were to let the truth remain in them which they had heard

Christ said that the truth would make them free - John 8:32

Christians are to stay faithful to the truth they have received

Christ is the One who is the Truth - John 14:6

Christ said it is the truth that sets us apart to God - John 17:19-20

John received great joy because His children walked in the truth - 3 John 1:4

Christians who abide in that truth will abide in the Son and the Father

Christ sent the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth - John 16:13-15

2. John had written these things about those trying to deceive - 2:25-26

Christ has promised all Christians eternal life

Christ made this life possible by His death and resurrection - John 3:14-16

John had written about those who were trying to deceive Christians

Those who practice righteousness are righteous - 1 John 3:7

3. John reminds of the anointing (Holy Spirit) that we have in us - 2:27

The Holy Spirit was sent by Christ to abide in all Christians

Christ sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in us - John 14:16-17

The Holy Spirit guards the true Christians

The peace of God guards our hearts and minds through Christ - Phil. 4:7

The Holy Spirit teaches concerning all things

The Holy Spirit is the One who teaches us all things - John 14:26

The things the Holy Spirit teaches are true

The Holy Spirit helps us know the things given to us by God - 1 Corinthians 2:12

The things the Holy Spirit teaches is not a lie

The Holy Spirit is also called the Spirit of truth - John 14:17

The message of the Gospel does not change

This is the message by which we are saved - 1 Corinthians 15:1-6

We are to abide in Christ as the Holy Spirit abides in us

As branches we cannot bear fruit of ourselves - John 15:4-5

We will bear much fruit as we abide in Christ - John 15:7-8

III. The Lord wants us to grow in godliness and love - 2:28-3:24

A. God tells us how to have a pure life - 2:28-29

1. We can have confidence when Christ appears - 2:28

Now, little children, abide in Him

Abide means to be together and to enjoy fellowship together - Luke 24:29-32
He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood - Heb. 7:24

We will bear no lasting fruit unless we abide in Christ - John 15:4

We will bear much lasting fruit as we abide in Christ - John 15:5, 8

Each person whose work endures will receive a reward - 1 Corinthians 3:14

That day will come when Christ appears

Past - He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself - Hebrews 9:26

Present - The life of Christ is to be manifested in our bodies - 2 Cor. 4:10-11

Future - When He is revealed, we shall be like Him - 1 John 3:2

We can have confidence in that day

As we walk by faith we will have confidence in that day - 2 Corinthians 5:5-8

A clear conscience gives us that confidence - 1 John 3:19-21

We will not need to be ashamed at His coming

If we suffer now for being Christians, we are not to be ashamed - 1 Peter 4:16

When the Chief Shepherd appears, we will receive the crown of glory - 1 Pet. 5:4

2. We can have that confidence because we practice righteousness - 2:29

We know that Christ is righteous

Christ is the One who loves righteousness - Hebrews 1:8-9

The Jews denied the Holy One, and the Just - Acts 3:14

You have condemned, you have murdered the Just - James 5:6

Christ is the One who is the Just One - Acts 22:14

By one Man's obedience many will be made righteous - Rom. 5:19

Even the centurion saw that Christ is righteous - Luke 23:47

Everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him

Those who practice righteousness are righteous - 1 John 3:7

Those who do not practice righteousness are not of God - 1 John 3:10

We do not just talk love, we reveal it in deed and in truth - 1 John 3:18

The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace - James 3:18

B. God tells us why a pure life is important - 3:1-3

1. God has bestowed (given or placed) His love on us - 3:1

We are amazed at the love the Father has placed on us

He loved us so much He sent Christ to pay our penalty - John 3:16

God called us when we were dead in trespasses and sins - Ephesians 2:4-7

He loved us so much that He was fully satisfied with that payment - 1 John 4:10

God has chosen to call us the children of God

We have become children of God and joint heirs with Christ - Romans 8:14-17

Our liberty as the children of God will touch all creation - Romans 8:21

The world cannot understand the love that we show

That love is shown as we take root in the love of Christ - Colossians 2:6

That love is what causes us to abound in thanksgiving - Colossians 2:7

This is true because the world does not know Him

The world does not know either the Father or the Son - John 16:3

2. God has called us His children - 3:2

As the beloved, we are the children of God

We received the divine nature at the time of our salvation - 2 Peter 1:4

We will understand this more fully in the future

Christ determined that He will conform us to His image - Romans 8:29

We will fully understand this fact when He is revealed

This will give us confidence at His coming - 1 John 2:28

We will be like Christ at that time

Fullness of joy will come when we are in His presence forever - Psalm 16:11

We will see Him as He is (in all of His glory)

3. God says this hope causes us to purify ourselves - 3:3

The more we understand this hope

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul - Hebrews 6:17-20

The more it causes us to purify ourselves

His love is being brought to maturity in us - 1 John 4:17

We want to be pure like Christ

The fellowship of His sufferings purifies us - Philippians 3:10; Acts 16:25

C. God tells us how to grow in purity - 3:4-6

1. Sin and lawlessness are really the same thing - 3:4

Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness

Those who continue in lawlessness are compared to tares - Matthew 13:37-43

Christ told the Pharisees they were filled with lawlessness - Matthew 23:27-28

The antichrist is called the lawless one - 2 Thessalonians 2:7-9

Sin is lawlessness

Unbelievers...for what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness - 2 Cor. 6:14

Slaves...of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness - Romans 6:19

2. Christ came the first time to take away our sins - 3:5

Christ was revealed on this earth in a human body

The Word (Christ) became flesh and lived among us - John 1:14

Christ came to take away our sins

I am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake - Isaiah 43:25

Christ loved righteousness and hated lawlessness - Hebrews 1:8-9

Christ came to redeem us from every lawless deed - Titus 2:14

Christ could die to pay for sin because He had no sin

Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven - Romans 4:7

Christ said, "...I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more" - Hebrews 8:12

I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions (sins) - Isaiah 44:22

3. Abiding in Christ and committing sin do not happen at the same time - 3:6

No one who abides in Christ will practice habitual sin

Righteous Lot...whose soul was tormented by their lawless deeds - 2 Peter 2:8

Those who practice habitual sin have not seen Christ

Repentance and faith causes our sins to be blotted out - Acts 3:19

False teachers reveal what they are by the fruit that they bear - Matthew 7:15-20

Those who practice habitual sin have not known Christ

Many may even have done various things in the name of Christ - Matt. 7:21-22

Christ will say, "I never knew you." to those practicing lawlessness - Matt. 7:23

D. God tells us how to become more like Christ - 3:7-9

1. God does not want us to be deceived - 3:7

We are not to let anyone deceive us

Those who say they have no sin deceive themselves - 1 John 1:8

If we practice righteousness we are righteous

We are walking in the Light as He is in the Light - 1 John 1:7

We follow Christ because He is righteous

Those who abide in Christ want to walk as He walked - 1 John 2:6

Those who love abide in the light and do not stumble - 1 John 2:10

Those who live in hate still walk in darkness and are blind - 1 John 2:9, 11

2. Christ came to destroy the works of the devil - 3:8

Those who habitually practice sin are still of the devil

Those who are living for sin are deceiving themselves - 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

The devil has sinned from the beginning

The sin of pride caused the devil (Lucifer) to fall - Isaiah 14:12-15

This is the purpose why Christ was revealed

Christ came to redeem us from the curse of the law - Galatians 3:13

Christ came to destroy the works of the devil

The devil was a murderer and a liar from before the creation - John 8:42-44

3. Christ says that His seed remains in those who come to Him - 3:9

Those who are born of God do not practice sin

We desire to do good but sin when we depend on our strength - Romans 7:15-25

We experience victory when we are yielding to the Spirit - Romans 8:26-39

His seed abides in those who are born of God

God made us alive together with Christ by His mercy - Ephesians 2:4-7

That is why Christians cannot live in habitual sin

God created us in Christ Jesus for good works - Ephesians 2:10

We have been born of God

God made us spiritually alive when we were dead in trespasses and sins - Eph. 2:1

We used to walk in sin because we were children of the devil - Ephesians 2:2-3

God saved us by grace through faith and not by works - Ephesians 2:8-9

E. God tells us how to learn to love one another - 3:10-12

1. Children reveal who their father is by what they do - 3:10

The children of God reveal who they are

The children of God are obedient to the Word - James 1:22

The children of the devil reveal who they are

They may hear the Word of Christ but they do not obey - Matthew 7:26-27

The Jews said God was their Father but did the works of the devil - John 8:39-41

For with the heart one believes unto righteousness - Romans 10:10

Those who do not practice righteousness are not of God

What fellowship does righteousness have with unrighteousness? - 2 Cor. 6:14

Those who do not love a brother are not of God

One who hates his brother cannot love God - 1 John 4:20-21

2. God loved us from the beginning and that is why He sent Christ - 3:11

This is the message that Christ taught from the beginning

Christ summarized the entire Old Testament - Matthew 22:37-40

Love the Lord your God with your the whole heart, soul and mind - Matt. 22:37

Love your neighbor as yourself - Matthew 22:39

He taught that we should love one another

Christ also gave the new commandment to His followers - John 13:34-35

3. Cain showed by his actions that he was a child of the devil - 3:12

Cain was a child of the wicked one

In his heart Cain chose to follow the way of the devil - Jude 8-11

Cain killed his brother

Cain killed his brother as they talked in the field - Genesis 4:8

Why did Cain kill his brother?

Cain became angry because his own works were not accepted - Genesis 4:5-7

The works of Cain were evil

His works were evil because he depended on his own works - Genesis 4:3, 5

The works of his brother were righteous

His brother brought a blood sacrifice - Genesis 4:4

By faith Abel brought a more excellent sacrifice than Cain - Hebrews 11:4

F. God tells us why the world hates - 3:13-15

1. We should not be surprised if the world hates us - 3:13

We are not to be amazed by one thing

The sin of unbelief convicts even when said in love - John 16:8-9
Christ ate with a large number of tax collectors and sinners - Luke 5:27-30
Sinners are drawn to one who accepts and loves them - Luke 15:1-2

That is the fact that the world hates us

The religious leaders hated this love because of their pride - Luke 18:10-11
If the world hates Christ, it will hate us also - John 15:18-20
They hate us because they hate Christ and the Father - John 15:21
The world hates those who do not follow the world - John 17:14

2. The evidence that we have passed from death to life - 3:14

We know that we have passed from death to life

All those who hear and believe pass from death to life - John 5:24
God causes our hate to turn to love at salvation - Romans 5:5
This love grows and bears the fruit of the Spirit in us - Galatians 5:22

The evidence is the fact that we love the brethren

This love was poured out in our hearts at salvation - Romans 5:5
A person cannot love God and hate his brother at the same time - 1 John 4:20

One who does not love his brother still abides in death

This person does not know where he is going - 1 John 2:9
The darkness has blinded the eyes of such people - 1 John 2:11

3. One who hates has murder in his heart - 3:15

Whoever hates his brother is a murderer

Such a person still has the devil as their father - John 8:44
The works of the flesh are seen in such a person - Galatians 5:19-21
Christ taught the importance of reconciliation with a brother - Matthew 5:21-26

No murderer has eternal life abiding in him

God in His mercy washes away all of our sins when we repent - 1 Cor. 6:9-11
Paul was thankful that the Lord forgave his entire past - 1 Timothy 1:12-15
Forgiven murderers will abide with Christ forever - Luke 23:43

G. God tells us how to show love by our actions - 3:16-18

1. One who loves lays down his life for the brethren - 3:16

Christ showed us how to love by His love

Christ gave Himself to deliver us from our sins - Galatians 1:4

Christ gave Himself to deliver us from this present evil age - Galatians 1:4

Christ gave Himself a ransom for all - 1 Timothy 2:6

Christ gave Himself to redeem us from every lawless deed - Titus 2:14

Christ gave Himself to purify for Himself His own special people - Titus 2:14

Christ laid down His life for us

Christ laid down His life for his friends - John 15:13

We also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren

Paul, Silas and Timothy shared their own lives for the brethren - 1 Thess. 2:8

2. One who talks but does not act deceives himself - 3:17

A person or even local church may have more money than others

James described what may be in the hearts of such Christians - James 2:1-4

That person sees a Christian in need

Many times the poor are rich in faith - James 2:5

Such a person might refuse to help meet basic needs

Basic needs are food and clothing - 1 Timothy 6:6-8

That refusal does not fulfill the royal law - James 2:6-8

Does the love of God abide in such a person?

Such partiality is sin and makes us guilty of all - James 2:9-10

3. That is why we show love by our actions not just our words - 3:18

Words and talk do not show love

Christ showed that godly love is sacrifice - 1 Peter 2:21-24

Paul said to imitate him as he imitated Christ - 1 Corinthians 11:1

Actions that meet needs show love

We are to be doers of the Word and not just hearers - James 1:22

Love is revealed when truth is joined with deeds

I will show you my faith by my works - James 2:18

They may by your good works which they observe, glorify God - 1 Peter 2:12

H. God tells us how to enjoy a clear conscience - 3:19-21

1. Deeds and truth working together help us know we are of the truth - 3:19

Works of love and truth are the result of faith

God is working within our hearts - Philippians 2:12-13

God makes it possible for us to shine as lights for the world - Phil. 2:14-16

These works will assure our hearts before God

People will observe our good works and glorify the Father - Matthew 5:16

We are created in Christ Jesus for good works - Ephesians 2:10

Vessels of honor are prepared for every good work - 2 Timothy 2:20-21

2. Some Christians feel condemned in their hearts - 3:20

The heart of a Christian might be deceived by guilt

Christians may have true guilt because of unconfessed sin - 1 John 1:9

Those who name the name of Christ are to depart from iniquity - 2 Timothy 2:19

Those who confess and forsake their sins will have mercy - Proverbs 28:13

False teachers will secretly bring in destructive heresies - 2 Peter 2:1

False teaching can cause us to be deceived by guilt - Galatians 5:1, 13

God is greater than our heart

The Lord says Christians no longer face condemnation - Romans 8:1

God wants our hearts to experience His peace - Philippians 4:6-9

God knows all things

The Lord understands our thoughts from afar off - Psalm 139:1-2

The Word of God reveals the thoughts and intents of the heart - Hebrews 4:12

3. God wants to set a Christian free from guilt - 3:21

God wants to set us free from guilt so our heart does not condemn us

Christ cleansed us from dead works so we can serve the living God - Heb. 9:14

The blood of Christ is continually cleansing us from all sin - 1 John 1:7

Christ's payment for sins both forgives and cleanses us from sin - 1 John 1:9

Works done in faith and truth give us confidence toward God

We walk by faith and not by sight so we aim to please Him - 2 Corinthians 5:7-9

We are motivated to do this by the love of Christ - 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

We can have confidence and not be ashamed at His coming - 1 John 2:28

I. God tells us the benefits of godly living - 3:22-24

1. God wants to bless our lives as we walk in fellowship with Him - 3:22

Whatever we ask we receive from Him

We will not receive if we ask to satisfy our own lusts - James 4:3
God promised we will receive if we ask according to His will - 1 John 5:14-15

This happens because we keep His commandments

Christ says any who love Him will keep His Word - John 14:23
We know that we know Him if we keep His commandments - 1 John 2:3

This happens as we do the things that are pleasing in His sight

Christ always did the things that pleased the Father - John 8:29
Christ came to do the will of the Father - Hebrews 10:7
God works in us both to will and to do His good pleasure - Philippians 2:13

2. God wants us to clearly understand His commandments - 3:23

This is the commandment of God

The wrath of God abides on all who do not believe in the Son - John 3:36
This is the work of God that you believe in Him whom He sent - John 6:29

We are to believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ

Those who believe in the Son are no longer condemned - John 3:18

We are to love one another as Christ gave us commandment

This is the new commandment that Christ gave - John 13:34-35, 15:12, 17
The Lord wants us to increase and abound in love to one another - 1 Thess. 3:12
If we love one another, God abides in us - 1 John 4:11-12

3. God gives us power to keep His commandments as we abide in Him - 3:24

Those who keep His commandments abide in Him

Those who keep His commandments have Him abiding in us

Christ promised the Spirit would abide in us forever - John 14:16-17

All Christians have the Holy Spirit abiding in us - Romans 8:9

God abides in us by the Spirit He has given us

Christ said the Spirit would endue us with power from on high - Luke 24:49
God sealed us and gave us the Spirit as our guarantee of salvation - 2 Cor. 1:22
This is still true even when we are grieving the Spirit by sin - Ephesians 4:30

IV. The Lord wants us to have victory over fear - 4:1-21

A. God tells us how to test the spirits - 4:1-3

1. We are not to believe every spirit - 4:1

The Lord warned not to believe every spirit

People will listen to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons - 1 Timothy 4:1

This will cause these people to speak lies with hypocrisy - 1 Timothy 4:2

The Lord said to test (examine to see if genuine) the spirits

We are to test all things and hold fast what is good - 1 Thessalonians 5:21

Love is to abound even more in knowledge and all discernment - Phil. 1:9-10

We are to find out if the spirits are of God

We are to be transformed by the renewing of our mind - Romans 12:2

(this will help us discern that good, acceptable and perfect will of God)

There are many false prophets in the world

These are false teachers who bring in destructive heresies - 2 Peter 2:1

2. We are told how we can know the Spirit of God - 4:2

This is how we can know the Spirit of God

The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit - 1 Corinthians 2:12-14

Every spirit that confesses Jesus Christ came in the flesh is of God

The Holy Spirit teaches the full humanity of Christ - Romans 10:9-10

The Holy Spirit also teaches the full deity of Christ - 1 John 2:22-23

3. Every one who denies Christ has the spirit of antichrist - 4:3

Every spirit that does not confess Christ came in the flesh is not of God

God tells us the Word became flesh and lived among us - John 1:14

This is the spirit of the antichrist

All who deny Christ are still the children of the devil - John 8:44

We have heard that the antichrist is coming

The final Antichrist will be revealed in his time - 1 Thessalonians 2:8-10

The spirit of the antichrist is already in the world

Already there are many antichrists - 1 John 2:18

There are many deceivers who are antichrists - 2 John 1:7

B. God tells us that we are overcomers - 4:4-6

1. God has already made us overcomers - 4:4

We have overcome because we are in God

Christ has already overcome the world - John 16:33

We are overcomers because we have the Holy Spirit within us - 1 John 5:4-5

The Holy Spirit in us is greater than the spirit in the world

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God who dwells in us - 1 Corinthians 3:16

The spirit of the world works in the sons of disobedience - Ephesians 2:2

This is not the spirit that we received at the time of salvation - 1 Corinthians 2:12

2. The people of the world listen to false spirits - 4:5

People are deceived by false teachers influenced by spirits in the world

False teachers teach their false doctrines - 1 Timothy 4:1-2

False teachers exploit others with their false words - 2 Peter 2:1-3

The false teachers and spirits speak as of the world

The wisdom of the world is foolishness with God - 1 Corinthians 3:19

The people of the world are deceived by these teachings - 2 Timothy 3:1-7

The people of the world hear those who speak of the world

Those who love the world do not have the love of the Father - 1 John 2:15

The world enjoys the passing pleasures of sin - Hebrews 11:24-25

3. Those who know God hear His messengers (through the Word) - 4:6

We are of God

We have become sons and heirs of God - Galatians 4:4-7

Those who know God will hear us

Those who belong to God hear God's words - John 8:47

Those who are not of God will not hear us

They were not even able to understand Christ's words - John 8:43

This is how we know the spirit of truth

Those in the world cannot receive the Spirit of truth - John 14:17

Everyone who is of the truth hears Christ's voice - John 18:37

This is how we know the spirit of error

These speak evil of whatever they do not know - Jude 1:10-13

C. God tells us how to learn to live in love - 4:7-9

1. We are to love one another - 4:7

We are to love one another as brethren

We were taught by God to love one another - 1 Thessalonians 4:9

This is the way that people see we are disciples - John 13:35

It is through love that we serve one another - Galatians 5:13

A fervent love for one another will cover a multitude of sins - 1 Peter 4:8

We realize that the source of love is God

The source of love is God - Romans 5:8

Each person who loves is born of God

Everyone born of God does not practice sin - 1 John 3:9

We are to be imitators of God and walk in love - Ephesians 5:1-2

Each person who loves knows God

We have known and believed the love that God has for us - 1 John 4:16

Paul wanted to know Him more fully - Philippians 3:10

2. Those who do not love are not of God - 4:8

Those who do not love do not know God

One who says he loves God and hates his brother is in darkness - 1 John 2:9-11

One who says he loves God and hates his brother is a liar - 1 John 4:20

God is love

God is love and he who abides in love abides in God - 1 John 4:16

God is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us - Eph. 2:4

3. God tells how He revealed His love to us - 4:9

This is the way that the love of God was revealed to us

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son - John 3:14-16

God sent His only begotten Son into the world

The Father sent His Son into the world - John 17:18

The Father sent His Son as the Savior of the world - 1 John 4:14

God did this so that we might live through the Son

Christ became sin for us so we might become
the righteousness of God in Him - 2 Corinthians 5:21

D. God tells us how to learn to grow in love - 4:10-11

1. God tells us why He sent His Son - 4:10

In this is love

The blood of Christ forgives our sins and cleanses our conscience - Heb. 9:13-15

It is not that we loved God

God showed His love toward us while we were still sinners - Romans 5:8

Instead God is the One who loved us

God is rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us - Eph. 2:4

That is why He sent His Son

God sent His Son to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself - Hebrews 9:26-28

His Son came to be the propitiation (that which satisfies) for our sins

Christ satisfied the requirements of the Father for the whole world - 1 John 2:2

2. God gave us an example of love to imitate - 4:11

Because God so loved us

God loved us so much that He gave His only begotten Son - John 3:16

We also ought to love one another

We are taught by God to love one another - 1 Thessalonians 4:9

The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit - Rom. 5:5

E. God tells us how to abide in His love - 4:12-15

1. God wants to perfect His love in us - 4:12

No one has seen God at any time

“You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.” - Exodus 33:20

If we love one another, God abides in us

Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God - 1 John 4:7

His love has been perfected in us

Christ became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him - Hebrews 5:9

By one offering Christ perfected forever those being sanctified - Hebrews 10:14

Whoever, keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him - 1 John 2:5

Love has been perfected among us in this (boldness in judgment) - 1 John 4:17

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear - 1 John 4:18

2. God has given us His Holy Spirit - 4:13

By this we know that we abide in Him

I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you - John 14:20
We have the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ - Romans 8:9

By this we know that He abides in us

We know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us - 1 John 3:24

We know because He has given us of His Spirit

God has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee - 2 Cor. 1:22

We received the Holy Spirit as the guarantee of our salvation - 2 Corinthians 5:5

This is to guarantee our inheritance until God takes us to heaven - Ephesians 1:14

The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit - Rom. 5:5

3. God sent His Son to be the Savior of the world - 4:14

The apostles had seen and could testify

John had seen Christ and spent his life testifying of it - John 20:30-31

Peter had heard the Father testify of Christ and testified of it - 2 Peter 1:15-18

Paul had seen Christ and testified of it - 1 Corinthians 15:8-9

The Father sent the Son as the Savior of the world

God sent His Son...that the world through Him might be saved - John 3:17

The everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - 2 Peter 1:5-11

This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior - 1 Timothy 2:3

To God our Savior who alone is wise - Jude 1:25

Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior - Acts 5:31

4. God tells us who abide in Him - 4:15

This is the promise to all who confess that Jesus is the Son of God

John the Baptist testified that Jesus is the Son of God - John 1:34

Nathanael recognized that Jesus is the Son of God - John 1:49

Peter said we know that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God - John 6:69

Martha said "I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God..." - John 11:27

God abides in Him and He in God

That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You... - John 17:21

He who acknowledges the Son has the Father also - 1 John 2:23

You also will abide in the Son and in the Father - 1 John 2:24

F. God tells us that love casts out fear - 4:16-18

1. We have believed the love that God has for us - 4:16

John said they had come to know the love God had for them

The disciples came to know this love as they walked with Christ - 1 John 1:1-2

John said they also believed the love God had for them

John wanted all who read this book to believe that love - 1 John 4:9

God is love

Whoever keeps His Word, the love of God is perfected in him - 1 John 2:5

He who abides in love abides in God

God loved us and sent His Son to satisfy the full penalty of sin - 1 John 4:10

God also abides in each true Christian

God abides in us and His love has been perfected in us - 1 John 4:12

2. His love will give us boldness in the day of judgment - 4:17

Love has been perfected among us in this

Christ gave us His perfect love when we received Him - Hebrews 12:23

We may have boldness in the day of judgment

Christ gives us boldness and access with confidence - Ephesians 3:12

We now have boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus - Hebrews 10:19

As He is, so are we in this world

We have been accepted in the Beloved (the Father sees us in Christ) - Eph. 1:6

3. Perfect love removes fear from our lives - 4:18

There is no fear in love

We are to come boldly to the throne of grace and receive mercy - Hebrews 4:16

Perfect love casts out fear

We know that when God disciplines us it is for our profit - Hebrews 12:10

We are disciplined by the Lord but not judged with the world - 1 Cor. 11:32

Fear involves torment

There is no condemnation (judgment) to those in Christ Jesus - Romans 8:1

Those who fear have not been made perfect in love

We have not understood we have been released from the fear of death - Heb. 2:15

We are God's children who will share eternity with Christ - Romans 8:14-17

G. God tells us why love is our proper response to Him - 4:19-21

1. Love is our response to His love - 4:19

We are now able to love God

The Holy Spirit gives us the power to love God and love others - Luke 24:49

This Holy Spirit poured God's love into our hearts - Romans 5:5

This is our response to the fact that God loves us

God showed this love to us while we were still sinners - Romans 5:8

God gave us this love as a gift which cannot be earned by works - Ephesians 2:8-9

2. Our love is shown by the way we love others - 4:20

Someone might say, "I love God," but hates his brother

Cain is given as an example of one who hates - 1 John 3:12

That person is a liar

God says one who does not love is a liar - 1 John 2:4

God says one who hates his brother is a murderer - 1 John 3:15

He does not love his brother that he has seen

Cain was the first example of what a lack of love can do - Genesis 4:4-10

This is contrasted with the faith of his brother, Abel - Hebrews 11:4

How can he love God whom he has not seen?

God poured out His love on us by the Holy Spirit at salvation - Romans 5:5

Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God - 1 John 4:7

This happens when we repent of our sin of unbelief - John 16:8-9

This happens when we believe by faith that God raised Christ - Romans 10:9-10

3. We are commanded to love our brother - 4:21

This is the commandment that we have from God

This is the old commandment that fulfills the Old Testament - Matthew 22:37-40

Christ perfectly fulfilled that commandment on our behalf - 2 Corinthians 5:21

Christ bore our sins in His own body so we are dead to sins - 1 Peter 2:24

Christ has now made it possible for us to live for righteousness - 1 Peter 2:24

He who loves God must love His brother also

This was the new commandment that Christ gave us - John 13:34-35

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love the brethren - 1 John 3:14

V. The Lord wants us to have His peace - 5:1-21

A. God tells us how to live a life of obedience - 5:1-3

1. Those who believe Jesus is the Christ experience spiritual birth - 5:1

Those who believe that Jesus is the Christ are born of God

Those who deny that Jesus is the Christ are liars - 1 John 2:22

Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God - 1 John 4:7

The signs given in the book of John are to show Jesus is the Christ - John 20:31

All true believers love the Father who gave us spiritual birth

Christ told Nicodemus that each person needs spiritual birth - John 3:3-7

The Father has shown His love to us by calling us His children - 1 John 3:1-3

All true believers will also love the others who are born of God

We have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren - 1 John 3:14-16

2. Those who are born of God experience changes in their lives - 5:2

This is how we know that we love the children of God

People will know we are disciples if we have love for one another - John 13:35

This is love, that we walk in His commandments - 2 John 1:6

We love God

We show we love the children of God by loving God - 1 John 4:7

We obey His commandments

We are to love one another as Christ loved us - John 13:34

We show we love the children of God by obeying His commands - John 14:15

3. This new love is the love of God - 5:3

God says that this is His love

He who loves God must keep His commandments - 1 John 4:21

God says we show the love of God when we keep His commandments

Owe no one anything but to love one another - Romans 13:8

Whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him - 1 John 2:5

Those commandments are not burdensome (a heavy load)

Paul did not want to be a burden to the Christians in Corinth - 2 Cor. 12:13-14

We obey His commandments by loving God and others - Matthew 22:37-39

B. God tells us we are overcomers because of faith - 5:4-5

1. God says all that are born of Him have overcome the world - 5:4

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world

We became children of God by being born of God - John 1:11-13

Christ told Nicodemus that he needed spiritual birth - John 3:3

Everyone who practices righteousness is born of God - 1 John 2:29

This is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith

This means that all Christians are overcomers - 1 John 4:4

2. God explains why we overcome the world - 5:5

Who is he that overcomes the world?

We have overcome because Christ defeated Satan at the cross - Hebrews 2:14-15

We have overcome because the Holy Spirit in us is greater - 1 John 4:4

He who believes that Jesus is the Son of God

John wrote what he wrote so that:

We can believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God - John 20:31

C. God tells us He has given us witnesses - 5:6-10

1. Christ has ONE who bears witness of who He is in our lives - 5:6

This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ

Water refers to the baptism of Christ - Matthew 3:15-17

Blood refers to the death of Christ - Matthew 27:54

(the centurion recognized that Christ is the Son of God)

He came not by water only, but by water and blood

Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin - Hebrews 9:22

It is the SPIRIT that bears witness

The Spirit came in the form of a dove at His baptism - Matthew 3:16

The Spirit would reveal additional things after the resurrection - John 16:13-15

The Spirit is truth

The world cannot receive the Spirit of truth - John 14:17

He, the Spirit of truth, will guide you into all truth - John 16:13

We can know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error - 1 John 4:6

2. There are three that bear witness in heaven - 5:7

The Father bears witness in heaven

The Father bears witness that Christ is God - John 8:13-18

The Son (Word) bears witness in heaven

The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand" - Luke 20:41-42

The Holy Spirit bears witness in heaven

David himself said by the Holy Spirit, 'The Lord said to My Lord...' - Mark 12:36

These three are one

Christ said that He and the Father are One - John 10:30

Christ said of the Father, "You, Father are in Me, and I in you - John 17:21

God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts - Galatians 4:6

3. There are three that bear witness on earth - 5:8

The Spirit bears witness on earth

The Spirit bears witness because the Spirit is truth - 1 John 5:6

The water bears witness on earth

Christ was baptized to fulfill all righteousness - Matthew 3:15

The blood bears witness on earth

Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself - Hebrews 9:14

These three agree as one

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all in agreement - John 16:13-15

4. The witness of God is greater than the witnesses on earth - 5:9

We receive the witness of men

The law required the witness of two people - John 8:17

One witness was not sufficient to convict - Deuteronomy 19:15

The witness of God is greater than the witness of men

Christ gave four witnesses of the fact He is the Son of God:

The witness of John the Baptist - John 5:33-35

The witness of the works of Christ - John 5:36

The witness of the Father - John 5:37-38

The witness of the scriptures - John 5:39

This is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son

The Father gave witness at the baptism of Christ - Matthew 3:17

5. All who believe in God have this witness within self - 5:10

He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit - Romans 8:16-17

He who does not believe God has made Him a liar

The Father who sent Me bears witness of me...Where is your father? John 8:18-19

Who is a liar but He who denies that Jesus is the Christ? - 1 John 2:22

That person has not believed the testimony the Father gave of the Son

Christ asked the Father, "Father, glorify Your name" - John 12:28-29

A voice came from heaven, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again."

He who denies the Son does not have the Father either - 1 John 2:23

D. God tells us we can be certain we have eternal life - 5:11-13

1. The Father has given testimony that this life is in His Son - 5:11

This is the testimony

Christ was condemned when He said He was the Son of God - Luke 22:70

The religious leaders refused to accept that testimony - Luke 22:71

God has given us eternal life

God has raised us up in Christ and made us sit in heaven - Ephesians 2:4-7

We are fellow citizens of the household of God - Ephesians 2:19

This life is in His Son

The Father has made us new creations in Christ - 2 Corinthians 5:17

Christ released us from the bondage of sin and death - Hebrews 2:14-15

2. The Father says all who have His Son have life - 5:12

He who has the Son has life

He that believes in the Son has everlasting life - John 3:36

Christ set us free from the law of sin and death - Romans 8:2

Christ abolished death and brought life and immortality to light - 2 Timothy 1:10

This is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life - 1 John 2:25

He who does not have the Son of God does not have life

He who does not believe is condemned already - John 3:18

Those who do not believe have the wrath of God abiding on them - John 3:36

Do not labor for the food which perishes - John 6:27

3. The Father wants us to know that we have eternal life - 5:13

John wrote these things to those who believe in the name of the Son of God

This is written to those who have believed Christ is the Son of God - John 3:18

God wants us to know that we have eternal life

Whoever believes in Christ has eternal life - John 3:15

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life - John 6:54

I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish - John 10:28

Christ is eternal life and gives eternal life - John 17:3

The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord - Romans 6:23

This is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life - 1 John 2:25

God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son - 1 John 5:11

God wants us to continue to believe in the name of the Son of God

True belief in Christ causes us to be called children of God - John 1:12

This is not a physical birth but a spiritual birth - John 1:13, 3:5-7

E. God tells us we can know that He answers our prayers - 5:14-15

1. God wants us to ask according to His will - 5:14

This is the confidence that we have in Him

Christ adopted us as sons according to the good pleasure of His will - Eph. 1:5

If we ask anything according to His will

Paul prayed that we would be filled with the knowledge of His will - Col. 1:9

Of His own will He brought us forth by the Word of truth - James 1:18

We know that He hears us

We are of God so we know that He hears us - 1 John 4:6

2. God will certainly answer prayers that are according to His will - 5:15

Since we know that God hears us

God wants us to come boldly to the throne of grace - Hebrews 4:14-16

We know that He will answer our requests

God works in us both to will and to do for His good pleasure - Phil. 2:13

He will do this because it is His will

This happens as we do the will of God from the heart - Ephesians 6:6

In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ - 1 Thess. 5:18

F. God tells us that sin in a Christian can lead to physical death - 5:16-17

1. We are to pray for Christians we see sinning - 5:16

We may see a brother who has rebelled and is living in sin

It may even be necessary to remove the person from fellowship - 1 Cor. 5:4-5
This would only be sinning a Christian and not all people - 1 Corinthians 5:9-11

We are to pray for that sinning Christian

The church discipline above brought true repentance - 2 Corinthians 2:4-6

We may pray that God will spare his physical life

We are to reaffirm our love to each one who repents - 2 Corinthians 2:7-8

There is continuing sin that can lead to physical death

This happened in the case of Ananias and Sapphira - Acts 5:1-11
Continuing sin may lead to physical death - 1 Corinthians 11:29-31

2. We realize that all unrighteousness is sin - 5:17

All unrighteousness is sin

Christ was delivered up for our offences (trespasses) - Romans 4:25

Under the new covenant the Lord can be merciful - Hebrews 8:12

Not all sin leads to physical death

If we do not forgive the faults of others, we will not feel forgiven - Matt. 6:14-15

Confessed faults (trespasses) leads to healing from fear, shame and guilt -

Genesis 3:10; James 5:16

Confession of daily sins leads to cleansing - 1 John 1:9

G. God tells why we are able to live a godly life - 5:18-21

1. We know that no one who is born of God habitually sins - 5:18

We know that one born of God does not practice sin

One born of God had the love of God poured out in his heart - Romans 5:5

One who is born of God guards himself against sin

We have died to sin and are no longer to live in it - Romans 6:2

We still commit sins but we have a desire to do good - Romans 7:19-20

One is to keep unspotted from the world - James 1:27

The wicked one is not able to touch (to harm) him

Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father - John 20:17

2. We know the whole world is influenced by evil - 5:19

We know that we are of God

At one time we were dead in our trespasses and sins - Ephesians 2:1

In Christ, we have redemption through His blood - Ephesians 1:7

We know we have passed from death to life because we love... - 1 John 3:14

We realize that the whole world lies under the power of the wicked one

Christ gave Himself to deliver us from this present evil age - Galatians 1:4

The shield of faith quenches all the fiery darts of the wicked one - Ephesians 6:16

Christ came to set people free from their bondage to sin - Heb. 2:14-15

3. We know that it is the Holy Spirit who gives understanding - 5:20

We know that the Son of God has come

Christ proceeded forth and came from the Father - John 8:42

The Father sent the Holy Spirit in Christ's name to teach us all things - John 14:26

We know the Son of God has given us an understanding

God reveals through the Spirit the things we don't understand - 1 Cor. 2:9-10

The Holy Spirit teaches by comparing spiritual things with spiritual - 1 Cor. 2:13

The natural man does not receive the things of God - 1 Corinthians 2:14

We received understanding so we may know Him who is true

Christ said, He that sent Me is true, whom you do not know - John 7:28

We are in Him who is true

Christ prayed, "that they may know You, the only true God..." - John 17:3

"that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I in You..." - John 17:21

We are in His Son Jesus Christ

He who believes in His Son has everlasting life - John 3:36

Christ said, He who believes in Me has everlasting life - John 6:47

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation - 2 Corinthians 5:17

This is the true God and eternal life

God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son - 1 John 5:11-12

4. We know we are to keep ourselves from idols - 5:21

Abstain from things offered to idols - Acts 15:29

The things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons - 1 Cor. 10:20

You were Gentiles carried away to these dumb idols - 1 Corinthians 12:2

They turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God - 1 Thess. 1:9

2 John

- I. **The Introduction - 1:1-3**
 - A. **The Christians who received this letter - 1:1**
 - B. **The importance of abiding in the love of Christ - 1:2**
 - C. **The desire for God to work in their lives - 1:3**
- II. **The importance of walking in love - 1:4-6**
 - A. **Some were walking in the truth - 1:4**
 - B. **The need to also walk in love - 1:5**
 - C. **The importance of walking according to God's commandments - 1:6**
- III. **The warning about deceivers who are against Christ - 1:7-11**
 - A. **Deceivers are really antichrists - 1:7**
 - B. **Deceivers can rob Christians of their full reward - 1:8**
 - C. **The description of a deceiver - 1:9**
 - D. **The danger of becoming a partner with a deceiver - 1:10-11**
- IV. **The conclusion - 1:12-13**
 - A. **John had many other things he wanted to teach them - 1:12**
 - B. **John sent greetings from churches in other places - 1:13**

3 John

- I. **The greeting and character of Gaius - 1:1-4**
 - A. **The writer of this book - 1:1**
 - B. **The prayer of the writer of this book - 1:2**
 - C. **The walk of the one who received this book - 1:3**
 - D. **The reason why the writer was filled with joy - 1:4**
- II. **The ministry to others serving the Lord - 1:5-8**
 - A. **The faithful ministry of Gaius and those who received this letter - 1:5**
 - B. **The love shown by Gaius and those who received this letter - 1:6**
 - C. **Their ministry had been to other faithful brethren - 1:7**
 - D. **These were fellow workers for the truth - 1:8**
- III. **The warning about proud Leaders - 1:9-11**
 - A. **John warned Gaius about the pride of Diotrephes - 1:9**
 - B. **John said that Diotrephes would be accountable for his deeds - 1:10**
 - C. **John warned Gaius not to imitate the evil deeds of Diotrephes - 1:11**
- IV. **The godly Example of Demetrius - 1:12-14**
 - A. **Demetrius had a good example and testimony - 1:12**
 - B. **John told why he was not going to write a long letter - 1:13**
 - C. **John passed on greetings to Gaius - 1:14**

Jude

- I. The introduction - 1:1-2**
 - A. Jude considered himself a bondservant of Christ - 1:1**
 - B. Jude told the church what he wanted them to experience - 1:2**
- II. The warning about false teachers - 1:3-4**
 - A. Jude told how to defend the faith - 1:3**
 - B. Jude knew that there were false teachers trying to deceive - 1:4**
- III. The examples of rebellion in the past - 1:5-7**
 - A. The rebellion of Israel in the wilderness - 1:5**
 - B. The rebellion of angels who followed Satan - 1:6**
 - C. The rebellion by the people of Sodom and Gomorrah - 1:7**
- IV. The characteristics of false teachers - 1:8-19**
 - A. The destruction of those who are false teachers - 1:8-11**
 - B. The actions of those who are false teachers - 1:12-13**
 - C. The Lord is the one who will carry out this judgment - 1:14-15**
 - D. The Christians had been warned about such false teachers - 1:16-19**
- V. The pattern to help people understand salvation - 1:20-23**
 - A. Godly Christians grow in faith and prayer - 1:20**
 - B. Godly Christians keep themselves in the love of God - 1:21**
 - C. We are to show compassion (mercy) to those who are discouraged - 1:22**
 - D. We warn of judgment to those who are proud - 1:23**
- VI. The benediction - 1:24-25**
 - A. The Lord is able to present us faultless - 1:24**
 - B. The Lord is the One who has eternal power - 1:25**

2 John

I. The introduction - 1:1-3

A. The Christians who received this letter - 1:1

The writer who wrote this book

The Elder is John who has been an apostle of Christ for about 60 years

The love of the writer for those to whom He was writing

Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her - Ephesians 5:25

This is the love that should guide all Christians

Christ commanded, "...love one another; as I have loved you..." - John 13:34-35

B. The importance of abiding in the love of Christ - 1:2

The truth abides in us

Christ is the One who is the Truth - John 14:6

Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ - John 1:17

The Spirit of Truth who proceeds from the Father testifies of Christ - John 15:26

The Spirit of truth guides us into all truth - John 16:13

Sanctify them by your truth, Your word is truth - John 17:17

The truth is eternal

All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God and is profitable...2 Tim. 3:16-17

Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit - 2 Peter 1:19-21

C. The desire for God to work in their lives - 1:3

God gives grace to all Christians

The God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ...- 1 Peter 5:10

God gives mercy to all Christians

The wisdom that is from above is...full of mercy and good fruits - James 3:17

God wants all Christians to experience His peace

The Lord explains how we experience His peace - Philippians 4:6-9

This grace, mercy and peace is from the Father and His Son

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ...- 1 Timothy 1:2

This message is to be shared in both truth and love

We are to speak the truth in love - Ephesians 4:15

II. The importance of walking in love - 1:4-6

A. Some were walking in the truth - 1:4

John rejoiced that he found some of her children walking in the truth

Those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth John 4:2
You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free - John 8:32
John said his greatest joy was that they walked in the truth - 3 John 1:4

This is a commandment that we received from the Father

If your sons walk before me in truth with all their heart - 1 Kings 2:4
Teach me Your way, oh Lord; I will walk in Your truth - Psalm 86:11
Hezekiah prayed, "...I have walked before You in truth..." - Is. 38:3

B. The need to also walk in love - 1:5

John was now pleading with the lady

This can refer to all churches or to a particular church - 2 John 1:1

John said he was not writing a new commandment to them

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,
and with all your strength." - Deuteronomy 6:5

John was writing a commandment that we have had from the beginning

The second commandment is like it - Matthew 22:37-40

That commandment is that we love one another

The old commandment fulfills the whole Old Testament - Matthew 22:37-40

C. The importance of walking according to God's commandments - 1:6

This is love, that we walk according to His commandments

Christ said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." - John 14:15

Christ also gave the new commandment in addition - John 13:34-35

"...love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

This is the commandment that they had heard from the beginning

You shall love your neighbor as yourself - Leviticus 19:18

John reminded them that they were now to walk in love

We are to walk in the Spirit so we do not fulfill the lust of the flesh - Gal. 5:16

We are to walk in love as Christ loved us and gave Himself for us - Ephesians 5:2

We are to walk in wisdom toward those who are not yet Christians - Col. 4:5

III. The warning about deceivers who are against Christ - 1:7-11

A. Deceivers are really antichrists - 1:7

Many deceivers have gone out into the world

Deceivers have separated themselves from other Christians - 1 John 2:19
Deceivers listen to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons - 1 Timothy 4:1
Deceivers are false prophets who have gone out into the world - 1 John 4:1

These deceivers do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh

The Holy Spirit confesses Jesus Christ came in the flesh - 1 John 4:2

This is a deceiver and an antichrist

There are many antichrists that have already come - 1 John 2:18

They deny that Jesus is the Christ - 1 John 2:22

This is the spirit of the antichrist - 1 John 4:3

B. Deceivers can rob Christians of their full reward - 1:8

Look to yourselves that we do not lose those things we worked for

Deceivers speak perverse things to draw people after themselves - Acts 20:30

A perverse person is one who twists the truth - Proverbs 6:14

The perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them - Proverbs 11:3

Deceivers substitute the worship of angels or other things - Colossians 2:18

They do not hold fast to the Head - Colossians 2:19

Then we will receive a full reward

We were created in Christ Jesus for good works - Ephesians 2:10

C. The description of a deceiver - 1:9

Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ

This is a person who denies or ignores what Christ did - 1 Timothy 4:1-3

Such persons do not have God

The love of God has not been poured out into their hearts - Romans 5:5

Those who abide in the doctrine of Christ

Those who acknowledge the Son have the Father also - 1 John 2:23

Those who come to Christ have both the Father and the Son

People must believe the Father sent Christ to believe Christ - John 8:42

The signs given in John were written so people would believe - John 20:30-31

D. The danger of becoming a partner with a deceiver - 1:10-11

Those who are deceivers may come to your house or door

To those defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure - Titus 1:15-16
Some deceive by flattering speech and smooth words - Romans 16:17-18

Their teachings do not agree with the whole Word of God

They may claim to believe God but deny Christ - 1 John 2:23
Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God - 1 John 5:1
They may deny the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus - Romans 6:23

We are not to receive them into our house to teach their doctrines

Their works deny Him; their mind and conscience are defiled - Titus 1:15-16

We are not to give them greetings (words of approval)

Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition - Titus 3:10-11

IV. The conclusion - 1:12-13

A. John had many other things he wanted to teach them - 1:12

John had many things that he wanted to write

John wrote 1 John to focus on the fact Jesus is the Christ - John 20:30-31
John wrote 2 John to focus on walking in the light, in love and in obedience
John wrote 2 John to warn about deceivers - 2 John 1:7

John did not want to write with paper and ink

John did not want to write a long book about the marks of a deceiver

John wanted to visit them so they could speak face to face

John felt his best ministry was face to face - 3 John 1:14

John said that this would cause his joy to be full

John wrote the Gospel of John so their joy would be full - John 15:11, 16:24
John wrote 1 John so their joy would be full - 1 John 1:4

B. John sent greetings from churches in other places - 1:13

The people of other churches sent their greetings

Greetings to the church in Rome came from many churches - Romans 16:16
This letter included greetings from those in a sister church - 2 John 1:13

These greetings were also from those who believed in Christ

Paul sent greetings to many in the church in Rome - Romans 16:3-15

3 John

I. The greeting and character of Gaius - 1:1-4

A. The writer of this book - 1:1

John was the writer of this book

John used this title for himself in both 2 John and 3 John - 2 John 1:1

John sent this book to Gaius

Gaius was a very common name so we do not know which one this is

John had a great love for Gaius

We are to speak the truth in love - Ephesians 4:15

We are to show love by deeds and in truth - 1 John 3:18

B. The prayer of the writer of this book - 1:2

John prayed that Gaius would prosper in all things

This was a prayer he would continue to walk in truth and love - 2 John 1:5-6

John prayed that Gaius would be in good health

Paul prayed that his health would be strong like his spiritual life

John said that the soul of Gaius was prospering

Gaius was strong in his spiritual life - 1 John 2:14

C. The walk of the one who received this book - 1:3

John greatly rejoiced when the brethren came

John said they testified of the truth that was in Gaius

It brought great joy to John to see people walking in the truth - 2 John 1:4

John had heard Gaius was walking in the truth

Walking in truth is the result of obedience to the truth - 1 John 3:19

D. The reason why the writer was filled with joy - 1:4

This news brought great joy to John

John had a real concern to see spiritual children walk in truth - 1 Cor. 4:15-16

He rejoiced when he heard his spiritual children were walking in the truth

It is important to both know the truth and walk in the truth - 1 John 2:21

II. The ministry to others serving the Lord - 1:5-8

A. The faithful ministry of Gaius and those who received this letter - 1:5

**John said Gaius was faithful in the way he served the brethren
Gaius also served strangers in this same faithful way**

B. The love shown by Gaius and those who received this letter - 1:6

**Those who knew Gaius talked about his love for others
Gaius lived the same way he taught others to live - James 2:18**

John encouraged him to keep helping others

We are not to grow weary while doing good - Galatians 6:9

John said that was a good example for others

We are to do good to all, especially to those of the household of faith - Gal. 6:10

Paul told Timothy to be an example to the believers - 1 Timothy 4:12

C. Their ministry had been to other faithful brethren - 1:7

These were people that had gone out to minister to others

The Lord told Ananias that He would send Saul to the Gentiles - Acts 9:16

The Lord had sent Paul and Barnabas to take the Gospel to Gentiles - Gal. 2:9

Many unnamed Christians took the Gospel to Gentiles - Acts 8:4, 11:20-21

These people did not ask those who were not Christians to help them

Paul made tents while he was in Corinth and other places - Acts 18:1-4

Paul did not even ask Corinthians who became Christians for help - 1 Cor. 9:12

D. These were fellow workers for the truth - 1:8

We are to serve faithful workers just as Gaius served them

We are to be given to hospitality as Christians - Romans 12:13

It is required in stewards that one be found faithful - 1 Corinthians 4:2

We are to be doers of the Word, and not hearers only - James 1:22

In that way we become fellow workers for the truth

We are God's fellow workers with other Christians - 1 Corinthians 3:9

Paul said that his fellow workers have their names in the Book of Life - Phil. 4:3

The fellow workers of Paul were a comfort to him - Colossians 4:11

III. The warning about proud leaders - 1:9-11

A. John warned Gaius about the pride of Diotrephes - 1:9

John had written to the whole church

Diotrephes treated the letter the same way he treated John

Diotrephes loved to have the preeminence among them

Diotrephes had the same desire as the world and Satan - Proverbs 21:24

Diotrephes did not receive John or those with him

Diotrephes treated John and Christ the same way - John 15:20

B. John said that Diotrephes would be accountable for his deeds - 1:10

John said he would remember the deeds of Diotrephes when he came

Diotrephes was trying to take the place of Christ - Matthew 20:25-28

Diotrephes was accusing John with malicious (evil or wicked) words

An evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil - Luke 6:45

Diotrephes was also doing other evil things

Evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse - 2 Timothy 3:13

Diotrephes did not receive any brethren that came to his city

By pride comes nothing but strife - Proverbs 13:10

Diotrephes forbid anyone else from receiving other brethren

Who was I that I could withstand God? - Acts 11:17

Diotrephes expelled any from the church who disagreed with him

Christ clearly warned against this type of leader - Mark 10:35-45

C. John warned Gaius not to imitate the evil deeds of Diotrephes - 1:11

John told Gaius not to imitate any of that kind of evil

Abhor (dislike strongly) that which is evil - Romans 12:9

John told Gaius to imitate what is good

We are to imitate those who are imitating Christ - 1 Corinthians 11:1

John said those who do good are of God

Christ asked, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil..." - Luke 6:9

By doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men - 1 Peter 2:15

John said those who do evil have not seen God

Diotrephes showed that he was an evil teacher - Acts 20:29-30

IV. The godly example of Demetrius - 1:12-14

A. Demetrius had a good example and testimony - 1:12

Demetrius had a good testimony from all

The church is to look for godly men to lead in the church - Acts 6:3

Demetrius had a good testimony from truth itself

You have purified yourselves in obeying the truth through the Spirit - 1 Peter 1:22

John said they could bear witness to that fact

They knew John wrote about Christ from being with Christ - 1 John 1:1-4

The church knew that the testimony of John was true

John had been a faithful follower of Christ for about 60 years

B. John told why he was not going to write a long letter - 1:13

John had many things to write

John wrote 3 John to warn about religious dictators

John did not want to write them with pen and ink

John did not want to write a long book about religious dictators - 3 John 1:9-10

C. John passed on greetings to Gaius - 1:14

John hoped to come soon to see the church

Paul sent a similar message to the church in Rome - Romans 1:9-13

John said then they could speak face to face

John felt his best ministry was face to face - 2 John 1:12

John wanted them to experience the peace of God

Peace was a great need of the twelve - John 14:27

We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ - Romans 5:1

We lack peace when we live the Christian life in our own strength

- Romans 7:15-24

To be spiritually minded is life and peace - Romans 8:6

The peace of God surpasses all understanding - Philippians 4:7

We can know the God of peace is with us - Philippians 4:9

John sent greetings from those with him

Paul often sent greetings from those with him - Colossians 4:10-12

John said to greet the friends by name for him

Paul gave a similar greeting when he wrote to the church in Rome - Rom. 16:3-16

Jude

I. The introduction - 1:1-2

A. Jude considered himself a bondservant of Christ - 1:1

Jude called himself a bondservant of Jesus Christ

Jude and James were both half-brothers of Christ - Matthew 12:47-50, 13:55

Jude was a brother of James

Jude was originally called Judas - Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3

The called, sanctified by God the Father and preserved in Christ

B. Jude told the church what he wanted them to experience - 1:2

Jude wanted them to have mercy multiplied to them

God made us His children by His abundant mercy - 1 Peter 1:3

Jude wanted them to have peace multiplied to them

Peace is multiplied through the knowledge of the Father and Son - 2 Peter 1:2

Jude wanted them to have love multiplied to them

God revealed His great love by sending His Son to die for our sins - 1 John 4:10

II. The warning about false teachers - 1:3-4

A. Jude told how to defend the faith - 1:3

Jude wanted to be diligent and write to them about their common salvation

This salvation is the message taught throughout the New Testament

The reason why Jude felt it necessary to write and exhort them

We are to encourage one another daily - Hebrews 3:13, 10:25

Jude encouraged them to earnestly contend for the faith

“earnestly contend” a total effort such as a runner or fighter would do

Follow the example of Jesus the author and finisher of our faith - Hebrews 12:1-2

Some err from the faith by depending works of the law - Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9

Some err from the faith because of a love of money - 1 Timothy 6:10, 6:21

Some err from the faith by false teaching about the resurrection - 2 Tim. 2:17-18

Jude said that faith was once for all delivered to the saints

Those who have turned from the faith have suffered shipwreck - 1 Timothy 1:19

In the latter times some will depart from the faith - 1 Timothy 4:1-3

B. Jude knew that there were false teachers trying to deceive - 1:4

Certain men have crept in unnoticed

Luke used this word to describe a particular Pharisee - Luke 11:37

Luke used this word to describe some of the Sadducees - Luke 20:27

False teachers deceive by their own learning instead of the truth - 2 Timothy 3:7

These men were long ago marked out for condemnation

Their end will be according to their works - 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

These men were ungodly men

Ungodly men will face the day of judgment and perdition - 2 Peter 3:7

These turn the grace of God into lewdness

Lot was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked - 2 Peter 2:7

They deny our only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ

False teachers will secretly bring in destructive heresies - 2 Peter 2:1

III. The Examples of Rebellion in the Past - 1:5-7

A. The rebellion of Israel in the wilderness - 1:5

Jude wanted to remind those who originally received this letter

Jude said they once knew this

The people of Israel rebelled many times in the wilderness - Exodus 32:23-26

The Lord had saved the people out of the land of Egypt

The people of Israel had followed Moses out of Egypt - Hebrews 3:16

The Lord destroyed those who did not believe

They sinned and their corpses fell in the wilderness - Hebrews 3:17

B. The rebellion of angels who followed Satan - 1:6

The angels did not keep their proper domain

God did not spare the angels who sinned - 2 Peter 2:4

They left their own abode

We do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities - Eph. 6:12

They are reserved in chains under darkness

The demons did not want to go to their judgment early - Mark 5:9-13

They can only wait for the judgment of the great day

This is the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels - Matthew 25:41

C. The rebellion by the people of Sodom and Gomorrah - 1:7

The people in Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities

The men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful - Genesis 13:13

These people gave themselves over to sexual immorality

They wanted to know the visiting angels carnally - Genesis 19:5

They went after strange flesh

They then tried to do homosexual acts to Lot - Genesis 19:9

God destroyed them as an example

The Lord rained fire and brimstone on them - Genesis 19:24

They show what suffering the punishment of eternal fire is like

They will spend eternity in the lake of fire and brimstone - Revelation 20:15, 21:8

IV. The characteristics of false teachers - 1:8-19

A. The destruction of those who are false teachers - 1:8-11

1. Common characteristics of false teachers - 1:8

These dreamers defile the flesh

To the defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure - Titus 1:15

These dreamers reject authority

They walk according to the lust of the flesh and despise authority - 2 Peter 2:10

These dreamers speak evil of heavenly majesties

They speak evil of anything of heavenly origin (glorious Gospel)- 1 Timothy 1:11

2. The Lord rebuked Satan when he disputed about the body of Moses - 1:9

Michael the archangel (a leading angel) was contending with the devil

Michael will also contend against Satan in the future - Revelation 12:7-9

(Michael will do this under the authority of Christ)

Satan was trying to get the body of Moses

No one on earth knew where the body of Moses was - Deuteronomy 34:6

Michael did not bring a reviling accusation against Satan

Such accusations are only made by those who do not fear God - 1 Timothy 6:3-4

Michael said the Lord would rebuke him

The Lord is the One who has all authority to rebuke Satan - Zechariah 3:2

The Antichrist will speak such blasphemies against God - Revelation 13:5-6

3. False teachers speak evil and corrupt themselves - 1:10

These people speak evil of whatever they do not know

They speak evil of things they do not understand - 2 Peter 2:12

They corrupt whatever they know naturally

Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits - 1 Corinthians 15:33

Their talk is no better than that of the dumbest animals

In these things they corrupt themselves

If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him - 1 Corinthians 3:17

4. False teachers follow the evil example of others - 1:11

Judgment will come to them

They will be judged just as the religious leaders were judged - Matthew 23:13-16

They have gone the way of Cain

Cain brought what he wanted as a sacrifice - Genesis 4:3-5; 1 John 3:12

They have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit

Balaam loved the wages of unrighteousness - Num. 31:8-16; 2 Pet. 2:15-16

They will be like those who perished in the rebellion of Korah

The earth opened up and swallowed them alive - Numbers 16:30-32

B. The actions of those who are false teachers - 1:12-13

1. Their words show they have left God out of their lives - 1:12

They are spots in your love feasts

Many false teachers tried to disguise themselves - 2 Peter 2:12-14

They feast with Christians with no fear in their lives

They fail to examine their own lives - 1 Corinthians 11:27-31

They are serving only themselves

They allure (to catch by bait) through the lusts of the flesh - 2 Peter 2:18

They are like clouds without water

They are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest - 2 Peter 2:17

They are carried about by the winds

They are like autumn trees without fruit

They are like the fig tree that did not bear fruit - Luke 13:6-9

They are twice dead, pulled up by the roots

2. Their actions will result in eternal judgment - 1:13

They are like raging waves of the sea

The wicked are like a troubled sea when it cannot rest - Isaiah 57:20-21

They are foaming up their own shame

Whose glory is in their shame - who set their mind on earthly things - Phil 3:19

They are like wandering stars

A shooting star or a meteor (bright for moment and then gone)

They will experience the blackness of darkness forever

They will experience the blackness of darkness forever - 2 Peter 2:17

C. The Lord is the one who will carry out this judgment - 1:14-15

1. This judgment was prophesied by Enoch - 1:14

Enoch was the seventh person from Adam

The genealogy in Genesis shows he was the seventh generation - Genesis 5:1-23

Enoch also prophesied about men like these

Enoch was also known for his faith which pleased God - Hebrews 11:5-6

Enoch said the Lord would come with ten thousands of His saints

Enoch spoke about the second coming of Christ to this earth - Jude 1:15

2. This judgment will come on all the ungodly - 1:15

The Lord will execute judgment on all

At that time the Lord will kill all unbelievers - Revelation 19:21

The Lord will convict all of them of their ungodly deeds

God will later judge each unbeliever by his own works - Revelation 20:11-15

They have committed these deeds in an ungodly way

Ungodly men turn the grace of our God into lewdness - Jude 1:4

They have spoken all the harsh things of ungodly sinners

The tender mercies of the wicked are cruel - Proverbs 12:10

They will be judged for the things they have spoken against the Lord

A bad tree cannot bear good fruit - Matthew 7:15-20

They will give an account before Him who is ready to judge - 1 Peter 4:5

That will be the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men - 2 Peter 3:7

Their sentence will be eternal judgment - Matthew 7:21-23

D. The Christians had been warned about such false teachers - 1:16-19

1. Their words are deceptive - 1:16

False teachers are grumblers (those who complain or murmur)

This had also happened in the Old Testament - Num. 14:27-29; 1 Cor. 10:10

False teachers are complainers

The mixed multitude led Israel in complaining - Exodus 12:38; Numbers 11:4-6

False teachers walk according to their own lusts

Scoffers...walking according to their own lusts - 2 Peter 3:3-4

False teachers speak with great swelling words

They speak great swelling words of emptiness - 2 Peter 2:18

False teachers flatter people to gain advantage

They will seek teachers who focus on their own advantage - 2 Timothy 4:3-4

2. We are to remember and teach the Word of God - 1:17

As the beloved we are to remember what the apostles taught

They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine - Acts 2:42

The true apostles were apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ

The ones chosen to be eyewitness of His resurrection - Luke 6:13; Acts 1:21-22

3. The apostles warned that there would be mockers - 1:18

The apostles taught there would be mockers (scoffers) in the last time

These indulge according to the flesh and despise all authority - 2 Peter 2:10

The apostles taught the mockers would walk according to their own lusts

Scoffers will come in the last days walking according to their own lusts- 2 Pet. 3:3

4. These false teachers will lack the Holy Spirit - 1:19

False teachers are sensual persons

This wisdom is not from above but is earthly, sensual, demonic - James 3:15

False teachers cause divisions

These purposely try to cause divisions among Christians - Romans 16:17

False teachers do not have the Holy Spirit

They lack the Spirit so do not glorify God in their body or spirit - 1 Cor. 6:20

V. The pattern to help people understand salvation - 1:20-23

A. Godly Christians grow in faith and prayer - 1:20

Jude makes it clear the beloved have different actions

However, we are built on the same foundation - 1 Corinthians 3:11

We have the same cornerstone - Ephesians 2:20-22

We are to build ourselves up in the most holy faith

The Word of God and His grace is able to build us up - Acts 20:32

Rooted and grounded in Christ and established in the faith - Colossians 2:6-7

We are to build up one another in our daily lives - 1 Thessalonians 5:11

We are to pray in the Holy Spirit

The Spirit Himself makes intercession for us - Romans 8:26

We are to pray always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit - Eph. 6:18

B. Godly Christians keep themselves in the love of God - 1:21

We keep ourselves in the love of God

We endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace - Eph. 4:3

Whoever keeps His Word, truly the love of God is perfected in Him - 1 John 2:5

We experience the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ

Grant mercy to Onesiphorus for he often refreshed me - 2 Timothy 1:16

According to His mercy He saved us - Titus 3:5

The wisdom from above...is full of mercy - James 3:17

We look forward to eternal life

Gentiles can glorify God for His mercy - Romans 15:9

C. We are to show compassion (mercy) to those who are discouraged - 1:22

On some, we have compassion

Paul said, "I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief." - 1 Tim. 1:13

I obtained mercy that Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering - 1 Timothy 1:16

Through the mercy shown you, they may now obtain mercy - Romans 11:31

We had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy - 1 Peter 2:10

These are the ones who are doubting

If we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged - 1 Corinthians 11:31

Let him ask in faith with no doubting - James 1:6

D. We warn of judgment to those who are proud - 1:23

Others we save with fear

There is no fear of God before their eyes - Romans 3:18

Pulling them out of the fire

No longer live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men - 1 Peter 4:2

Hating even the garment defiled by the flesh

Words spoken can defile the whole body - James 3:6

False teaching can defile the garments of those being deceived - Revelation 3:4

VI. The benediction - 1:24-25

A. The Lord is able to present us faultless - 1:24

To Him who is able to keep us from stumbling

The Lord is faithful and will guard us from the evil one - 2 Thess. 3:3

To Him who is able to present us faultless

That we should be holy and without blame before Him in love - Eph. 1:4

To present you holy and blameless and above reproach in His sight - Col. 1:22

Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy

When His glory is revealed, you may be glad with exceeding joy - 1 Peter 4:13

B. The Lord is the One who has eternal power - 1:25

To God our Savior

We are to pray, for this is acceptable to God our Savior - 1 Timothy 2:3

The glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ - Titus 2:13

When the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared - Titus 3:4

Who alone is wise

The foolishness of God is wiser than men - 1 Corinthians 1:21-25

To God who alone is wise - 1 Timothy 1:17

Be glory and majesty

With Your glory and Your majesty - Psalm 45:3

Dominion and power

Christ is in the heavenly places far above all power and dominion - Eph. 1:20-21

Both now and forever. Amen.

All things were created by Him and for Him - Colossians 1:16