

A Study of 1
John
"How We KNOW"
Children of
God, Children
of the devil –
Part 2

A STUDY OF 1 JOHN

"HOW WE KNOW"

THE CHILDREN OF GOD FROM
THE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL

— PART 2

"FOR WHATSOEVER IS BORN OF GOD OVERCOMETH
THE WORLD: AND THIS IS THE VICTORY THAT
OVERCOMETH THE WORLD, EVEN OUR FAITH." —

1 JOHN 5:4

Who were the recipients of the epistle of 1 John?

- This letter was addressed to believers:

1 John 2:12-14

I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

Information on 1 John is from the International Bible Society
<https://www.biblica.com/>

1 John 3:1

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

1 John 5:13

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

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What was the purpose of John's Epistle?

John's readers were confronted with an early form of Gnostic teaching called Cerinthianism.

This teaching taught that the divine Christ joined the man Jesus at baptism and left him before he died. This view is the background of much of 1 John:

1 John 1:1

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

1 John 2:22

Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. (See also 1 John 4:2-3)

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WHAT IS GNOSTICISM?

One of the most dangerous heresies of the first two centuries of the church was Gnosticism. Gnostic ideas in Christianity still exist today.

Its central teaching was that spirit is entirely good and the body is entirely evil. From this unbiblical dualism flowed licentiousness (lacking legal or moral restraints especially marked by disregard for rules of correctness.)

The reasoning was that, since the body was considered evil —and not the breaking of God's law, breaking His law was of no moral consequence:

(1 John 3:4 "Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.")

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This Gnostic heresy (Cerinthianism) was also libertine, *throwing off all moral restraints*, so consequently, John wrote this letter with two basic purposes in mind:

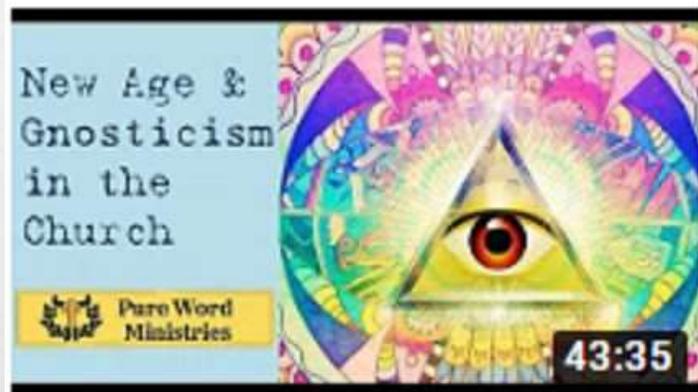
(1) to expose false teachers (1 John 2:26 -"I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray.")

(2) to give believers assurance of salvation (1 John 5:13 - "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.")

In keeping with his intention to combat Gnostic teachers, *John specifically struck at their total lack of morality* (1 John 3:8-10); and by giving eyewitness testimony to the incarnation, he sought to confirm his readers' belief in the incarnate Christ (1 John 1:3). Success in this would give the writer joy (1 John 1:4).

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More resources on Gnosticism:



New Age & Gnosticism in the Church

241 views • 6 months ago

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ee0-SlyAOrs>

Talkin' Gnosticism

October 11, 2018 / Anna Cheslick

What is (Christian) Gnosticism?

<https://www.purewordministries.com/single-post/Talkin-Gnosticism>



There are many subtle "Christian Teachers" emerging, teaching borderline Gnostic ideas and leading believers off the narrow path.

1 John 3

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

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

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

In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.



How we Know We are the Children of God

1. We look forward to the return of Christ (1 John 3:1)
2. We abide in Him, and strive towards not committing sin (1 John 3:6)
3. We walk in His righteousness, practicing righteousness (1 John 3:7)
4. We love our brothers (1 John 3:10)

More on Love and Hatred

For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, *and slew his brother*. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

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

Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

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

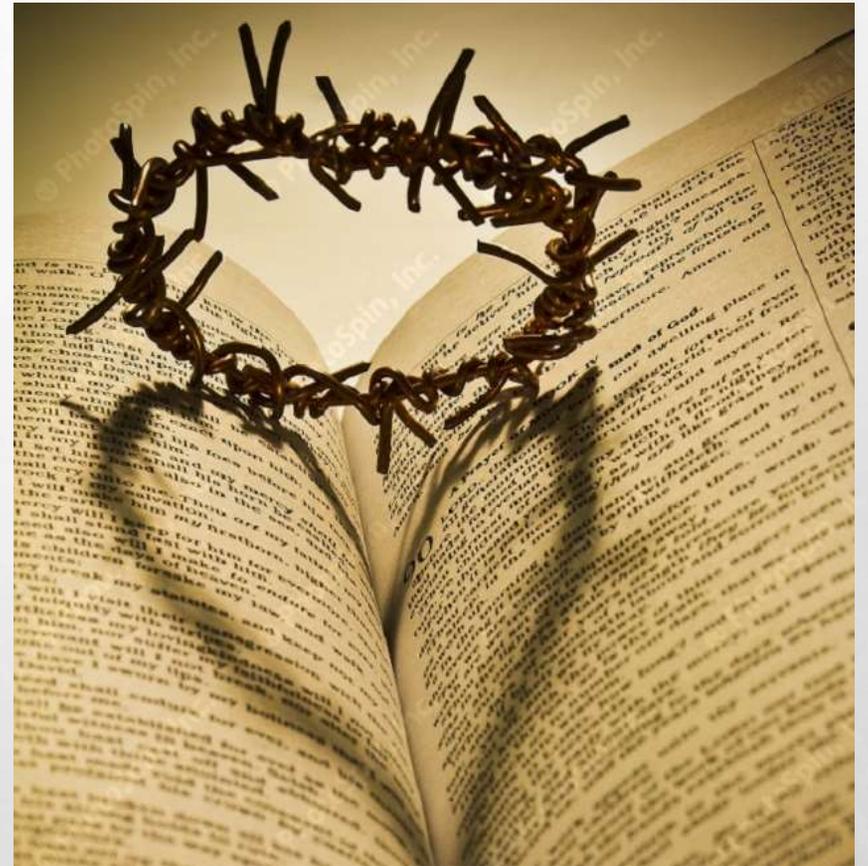
But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

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

For if our heart condemn us,
God is greater than our heart,
and knoweth all things.

Beloved, if our heart condemn
us not, then have we
confidence toward God.



And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

How we Know We are the Children of God

5. We don't hate those who practice righteousness (1 John 3:12)
6. We "lay down our lives" for our brothers (1 John 3:16-17)
7. We practice what we preach (1 John 3:18)
8. We "listen to our hearts", does it condemn us or assure us? (1 John 3:21)
9. The Holy Spirit testifies to our spirit (1 John 3:24)

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