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## 1 John

The book of 1 John is one of the letters of the New Testament written by the apostle John. It is believed to have been written in the late first century and is addressed to a community of believers, likely in Ephesus.

The book of 1 John is primarily concerned with the themes of love, obedience, and the importance of right belief. John emphasizes that true love for God is demonstrated through obedience to His commands, and that a life of sin is incompatible with a life lived in the light of God's truth.

John also stresses the importance of right belief, warning his readers about false teachers who seek to lead them astray. He encourages them to remain steadfast in their faith and to continue to trust in the message that they have heard from the beginning.

Throughout the book, John offers practical advice on how to live as a follower of Christ, including the importance of loving one another, avoiding the love of the world, and standing firm against the influence of false teachers.

Overall, the book of 1 John offers a message of encouragement and hope to believers, reminding them of the importance of living in obedience to God's truth and the power of God's love to transform their lives.

Here's a brief summary of each chapter of the book of 1 John:

Chapter 1: John introduces himself as an eyewitness to the life of Jesus and emphasizes the importance of walking in the light of God's truth. He also acknowledges the reality of sin but reminds his readers of the power of God's forgiveness.

Chapter 2: John warns his readers about false teachers who deny the reality of sin and the importance of obeying God's commands. He emphasizes the importance of loving one another and reminds them that they have an advocate with the Father in Jesus Christ.

Chapter 3: John encourages his readers to continue living in obedience to God's commands and to love one another. He contrasts the children of God with the children of the devil, emphasizing the importance of living a righteous life.

Chapter 4: John reminds his readers that God is love and encourages them to love one another. He also warns them to test the spirits to discern whether they come from God or from false prophets.

Chapter 5: John emphasizes the importance of believing in Jesus as the Son of God and the source of eternal life. He also encourages his readers to pray for one another and to live in accordance with God's commands.

Overall, the book of 1 John emphasizes the importance of living a life of obedience to God's truth, loving one another, and remaining steadfast in faith amidst the challenges of the world.

1 John 1

New International Version

The Incarnation of the Word of Life

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. 2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We write this to make our[a] joy complete.

Light and Darkness, Sin and Forgiveness

5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all[b] sin.

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

Footnotes

1 John 1:4 Some manuscripts your

1 John 1:7 Or every

Here is a full description of chapter 1 of the book of 1 John:

Chapter 1 of 1 John begins with the apostle John introducing himself as an eyewitness to the life of Jesus Christ, whom he refers to as "the Word of life." John then goes on to emphasize the importance of walking in the light of God's truth, which he says brings fellowship with God and with one another.

John acknowledges the reality of sin, but he also reminds his readers of the power of God's forgiveness through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. He says that if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. John then goes on to emphasize the importance of being truthful in our words and actions, saying that if we claim to have fellowship with God while walking in darkness, we are lying to ourselves and to others. On the other hand, if we walk in the light of God's truth, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. John ends the chapter by warning his readers against claiming to be without sin, saying that if we do so, we are deceiving ourselves and calling God a liar. Instead, he encourages his readers to confess their sins and to trust in God's mercy and forgiveness. Overall, chapter 1 of 1 John emphasizes the importance of walking in the light of God's truth, confessing our sins, and trusting in God's forgiveness through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It also warns against claiming to be without sin and encourages honesty and truthfulness in our words and actions.

Here are some important verses from 1 John chapter 1:

1. Verse 5: "This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all."

Explanation: This verse emphasizes the purity and holiness of God. It also suggests that followers of God should strive to live in the light and avoid darkness (sin).

Location: 1 John 1:5

2. Verse 8: "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."

Explanation: This verse acknowledges that all humans are sinners and cannot claim to be without sin. It emphasizes the importance of humility and honesty about one's own flaws and shortcomings.

Location: 1 John 1:8

3. Verse 9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Explanation: This verse emphasizes the importance of confessing one's sins to God and seeking forgiveness. It suggests that God is merciful and will purify us from our unrighteousness if we repent.

Location: 1 John 1:9

4. Verse 10: "If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us."

Explanation: This verse reiterates the idea that all humans are sinners and cannot claim to be without sin. It suggests that denying our own sinfulness is a form of dishonesty and goes against the teachings of God.

Location: 1 John 1:10

The First Epistle of John, also known as 1 John, is a book in the New Testament of the Bible. It is traditionally attributed to the apostle John and is considered one of the Johannine writings, along with the Gospel of John and the Second and Third Epistles of John.

Theological Thought:

1 John is known for its rich theological thought, particularly in the areas of ethics, love, and the nature of God. Here are some key theological themes and thoughts from 1 John:

**God is Light and Love:** The epistle begins by emphasizing the nature of God as both light and love. God is described as pure and holy light, and God's love is the foundation for the Christian's love for one another.

**Fellowship with God:** 1 John emphasizes the importance of fellowship or communion with God. This fellowship is rooted in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and is characterized by walking in the light, confessing sins, and abiding in God's love.

**Sin and Forgiveness:** The letter addresses the reality of sin and the need for confession and forgiveness. It teaches that if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Love for One Another:** Love is a central theme in 1 John. Believers are encouraged to love one another, and it is stressed that love is an essential mark of a true Christian. The famous verse "God is love" (1 John 4:8) appears in this epistle.

**Assurance of Salvation:** 1 John provides tests or markers for believers to assess their relationship with God and their assurance of salvation. These tests include obeying God's commands, loving one's fellow believers, and confessing Jesus as the Christ.

**Theological Influence:**

1 John has had a significant theological influence on Christian thought and practice throughout history. Some of its key theological contributions and influences include:

**The Doctrine of the Trinity:** While not explicitly developed in 1 John, the epistle contributes to the understanding of the triune nature of God. It highlights the Father's love, the Son's role as the Savior, and the Holy Spirit's work in the believer's life.

**Christian Ethics:** The ethical teachings in 1 John, particularly the emphasis on love and righteousness, have had a profound impact on Christian ethics and how believers are called to live out their faith in love and holiness.

**Assurance of Salvation:** The epistle has been influential in discussions about the assurance of salvation and the marks of genuine faith. It has provided comfort and guidance to countless Christians seeking assurance in their relationship with God.

**Theological Debates:** 1 John has been cited and discussed in various theological debates and controversies throughout the history of the Christian Church, including discussions about the nature of Christ, the relationship between faith and works, and the significance of love in Christian theology.

Overall, 1 John continues to be a significant and influential book in the New Testament, shaping the theological understanding and practice of Christianity. Its teachings on love,

fellowship with God, and assurance of salvation remain relevant to believers and theologians today.

1 John 2

New International Version

2 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Love and Hatred for Fellow Believers

3 We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. 4 Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, love for God[a] is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

7 Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. 8 Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister[b] is still in the darkness. 10 Anyone who loves their brother and sister[c] lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. 11 But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

Reasons for Writing

12 I am writing to you, dear children,  
because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

13 I am writing to you, fathers,  
because you know him who is from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young men,  
because you have overcome the evil one.

14 I write to you, dear children,  
because you know the Father.

I write to you, fathers,  
because you know him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men,  
because you are strong,  
and the word of God lives in you,  
and you have overcome the evil one.

On Not Loving the World

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father[d] is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

#### Warnings Against Denying the Son

18 Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.[e] 21 I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. 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. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

24 As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. 25 And this is what he promised us—eternal life.

26 I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. 27 As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.

#### God's Children and Sin

28 And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

29 If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

#### Footnotes

1 John 2:5 Or word, God's love

1 John 2:9 The Greek word for brother or sister (adelphos) refers here to a believer, whether man or woman, as part of God's family; also in verse 11; and in 3:15, 17; 4:20; 5:16.

1 John 2:10 The Greek word for brother and sister (adelphos) refers here to a believer, whether man or woman, as part of God's family; also in 3:10; 4:20, 21.

1 John 2:15 Or world, the Father's love

1 John 2:20 Some manuscripts and you know all things

Chapter 2 of 1 John begins with the apostle John addressing his readers as "my dear children" and urging them not to sin, but if anyone does sin, they have an advocate with the Father in Jesus Christ. John goes on to say that those who claim to know God must

also obey His commands, and anyone who claims to know Him but does not obey His commands is a liar.

John then warns his readers about false teachers, whom he calls "antichrists," who deny that Jesus is the Christ and try to lead people astray from the truth. He says that these false teachers were present in his own time and would continue to be present in the future.

Next, John emphasizes the importance of loving one another, saying that anyone who claims to be in the light but hates their brother or sister is still in darkness. He reminds his readers that Jesus Himself was the ultimate example of love, laying down His life for us. John then addresses different stages of spiritual maturity, saying that he is writing to "little children," "young men," and "fathers" in the faith. He encourages them to continue in their faith and to overcome the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil. Finally, John warns his readers against the love of the world, which he says is passing away. He says that those who love the world and its pleasures do not have the love of the Father in them.

Overall, chapter 2 of 1 John emphasizes the importance of obedience to God's commands, love for one another, and the dangers of false teachers and the love of the world. John encourages his readers to continue growing in their faith and to resist the temptations of the world and the devil.

! Here are some important verses from 1 John chapter 2:

1. Verse 1: "My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One."

Explanation: This verse emphasizes that believers should strive to avoid sin, but acknowledges that we may still sin. It also points to Jesus Christ as our advocate and mediator with God, who intercedes on our behalf.

Location: 1 John 2:1

2. Verse 6: "Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did."

Explanation: This verse suggests that followers of Jesus should strive to emulate his example and live as he did, with love, humility, and obedience to God.

Location: 1 John 2:6

3. Verse 15: "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them."

Explanation: This verse warns against becoming too attached to worldly things or values, which can distract us from our love and devotion to God.

Location: 1 John 2:15

4. Verse 17: "The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever."

Explanation: This verse contrasts the temporary and fleeting nature of worldly things with the eternal and lasting nature of God's will. It emphasizes the importance of prioritizing God's will over worldly desires.

Location: 1 John 2:17

The Second Chapter of 1 John, like the entire epistle, contains important theological thoughts and influences that have played a significant role in Christian theology and practice. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from 1 John chapter 2:

**Advocate and Atonement:** In 1 John 2:1-2, the author speaks of Jesus Christ as our "Advocate with the Father" and the "propitiation for our sins." Theologically, this passage emphasizes Jesus' role as both the one who intercedes on behalf of believers and the one who has provided atonement for their sins. This contributes to the understanding of Christ's work on the cross as essential for reconciliation between humanity and God.

**Obedience to God's Commands:** Throughout 1 John 2, there is an emphasis on obedience to God's commands as a mark of true discipleship. Theological thought here centers on the importance of living in accordance with God's moral and ethical standards, which reflects one's genuine relationship with God.

**Love and Hatred:** The chapter explores the themes of love and hatred. Theological thought in this regard highlights the significance of love for fellow believers as evidence of abiding in the light of God. Conversely, hatred or indifference toward others is seen as being in darkness.

**Antichrists and False Teaching:** 1 John 2 warns about the presence of antichrists and false teachings in the world. Theological thought here underscores the need for discernment and a firm adherence to the true faith in Christ. It has contributed to discussions about heresy and the importance of doctrinal orthodoxy in Christianity.

**The Anointing of the Holy Spirit:** In 1 John 2:20 and 2:27, the concept of being "anointed" by the Holy Spirit is mentioned. This theological thought speaks to the role of the Holy Spirit in guiding and teaching believers. It has implications for the doctrine of the Holy Spirit's indwelling and guidance of believers.

**The Last Hour:** The passage in 1 John 2:18 speaks of it being the "last hour" and the presence of many antichrists. This has prompted theological discussions about eschatology (the study of the end times) and the expectation of Christ's return.

**Theological Influence:**

1 John 2, along with the rest of the epistle, has had a profound theological influence on Christian thought and practice over the centuries. Some of its theological influences include:

**Christological Understanding:** The passage about Jesus as the Advocate and Atonement has contributed to the development of Christology, the study of Christ's nature and work. It has played a role in discussions about the atonement and the mediation of Christ on behalf of believers.



Ethical Emphasis: The emphasis on obedience to God's commands and the importance of love for one another has had a lasting impact on Christian ethics and moral theology. It has influenced discussions about Christian behavior and discipleship.

Ecclesiastical Discernment: Warnings about false teachers and antichrists have influenced the development of church doctrine and the need for discernment in identifying and addressing false teachings.

Eschatological Reflection: References to the "last hour" and the presence of antichrists have contributed to eschatological discussions within Christianity, influencing various interpretations of end-times events.

In summary, 1 John chapter 2 contains theological thoughts related to Christology, ethics, discernment, the Holy Spirit, and eschatology. Its influence can be seen in the development of Christian doctrine, ethical teachings, and discussions on various theological topics within the Christian tradition.

1 John 3

New International Version

3 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears,[a] we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

4 Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. 5 But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. 6 No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

7 Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. 8 The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. 9 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. 10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

More on Love and Hatred

11 For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. 12 Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. 13 Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters,[b] if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not

love remains in death. 15 Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

19 This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: 20 If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. 24 The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

#### Footnotes

1 John 3:2 Or when it is made known

1 John 3:13 The Greek word for brothers and sisters (*adelphoi*) refers here to believers, both men and women, as part of God's family; also in verse 16.

Chapter 3 of 1 John begins with the apostle John marveling at the love of God that has been lavished upon His children, who are now called His own. He reminds his readers that although they do not yet fully understand what they will become, they know that they will be like Christ when He appears.

John then goes on to emphasize the importance of righteous living, saying that everyone who has this hope in Christ should purify themselves, just as Christ is pure. He also warns against lawlessness, saying that those who sin are lawless, and that Christ appeared to take away our sins.

Next, John emphasizes the importance of brotherly love, saying that those who love their brothers and sisters in Christ have passed from death to life. He says that love is the evidence that someone is a child of God, and that those who do not love do not know God.

John then contrasts the love of God with the love of the world, saying that those who love the world do not have the love of the Father in them. He warns against the desires of the flesh, the eyes, and the pride of life, saying that they are not from the Father but from the world.

Finally, John encourages his readers to have confidence in their relationship with God, saying that if our hearts do not condemn us, we can approach God with boldness and ask for whatever we need. He says that the greatest commandment is to believe in Jesus Christ and to love one another.

Overall, chapter 3 of 1 John emphasizes the importance of righteous living, brotherly love, and confidence in our relationship with God. John encourages his readers to purify

themselves and to resist the temptations of the world, and to trust in God's love and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Here are some important verses from 1 John chapter 3:

1. Verse 1: "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

Explanation: This verse emphasizes the great love that God has for us as his children, and the privilege we have in being part of his family.

Location: 1 John 3:1

2. Verse 16: "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."

Explanation: This verse defines love as sacrificial and selfless, using the example of Jesus' death on the cross. It also suggests that we should be willing to make sacrifices for our fellow believers.

Location: 1 John 3:16

3. Verse 18: "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

Explanation: This verse emphasizes the importance of demonstrating our love for others through our actions, rather than just using empty words.

Location: 1 John 3:18

4. Verse 24: "The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us."

Explanation: This verse emphasizes the importance of obedience to God's commands as a sign of our relationship with him. It also suggests that the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives is evidence of our connection to God.

Location: 1 John 3:24

The First Epistle of John (1 John) is one of the books in the New Testament of the Bible. It is a relatively short letter attributed to the apostle John. In 1 John chapter 3, there are several theological thoughts and potential theological influences that can be discussed:

**Sonship and Adoption:** In this chapter, John emphasizes the idea of believers being called "children of God" (1 John 3:1). This highlights the theological concept of sonship and adoption in Christianity. Believers are considered part of God's family, adopted as His children through faith in Jesus Christ.

**Righteousness and Sin:** John addresses the contrast between righteousness and sin. He emphasizes that those who are born of God do not continue in sin but practice righteousness. This reflects the theological idea of sanctification, the process of becoming more like Christ and living a life of moral and spiritual purity.

**Love and Sacrifice:** John also speaks of the love of Christ, who laid down His life for us (1 John 3:16). This reflects the theological concept of God's sacrificial love, as demonstrated through Jesus Christ's death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

Assurance of Salvation: John discusses the assurance of salvation for believers. He encourages them to have confidence before God (1 John 3:21) and assures them that God is greater than their hearts and knows everything (1 John 3:20). This touches on the theological theme of assurance of salvation and God's omniscience.

Theological Influence:

1 John has had a significant theological influence on Christian thought and doctrine throughout history:

Theological Foundations: 1 John has contributed to the development of key theological concepts in Christianity, such as the nature of God's love, the assurance of salvation, and the believer's identity as children of God.

Christology: The epistle emphasizes the divinity of Jesus Christ and His redemptive work, which has had a profound influence on Christology (the study of Christ's nature and role) within Christian theology.

Ethical Teaching: The epistle's teachings on righteousness, love, and ethical conduct have influenced Christian moral theology and discussions on how believers should live in accordance with their faith.

Community and Fellowship: 1 John underscores the importance of fellowship within the Christian community, which has theological implications for ecclesiology (the study of the church) and Christian community life.

Overall, 1 John chapter 3 contributes to the broader theological understanding of Christian identity, ethics, and the relationship between believers and God. Its teachings continue to shape Christian theology and practice today.

1 John 4

New International Version

On Denying the Incarnation

4 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit[a] of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

## God's Love and Ours

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

13 This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

## Footnotes

1 John 4:6 Or spirit

Chapter 4 of 1 John begins with the apostle John warning his readers to test the spirits, to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. He says that those who confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh are from God, and those who do not are not from God.

John then emphasizes the importance of love, saying that love comes from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. He says that God showed His love for us by sending His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and that we should love one another in the same way.

Next, John reminds his readers that no one has seen God, but if we love one another, God lives in us, and His love is made complete in us. He says that perfect love drives out fear, and that those who fear have not been made perfect in love.

John then emphasizes the importance of confessing that Jesus is the Son of God, saying that those who acknowledge this have God living in them, and those who do not have no life in them. He also warns against false prophets, saying that anyone who does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God.

Finally, John says that God is love, and whoever lives in love lives in God, and God lives in them. He emphasizes that loving others is a sign that we know God, and that those who do not love do not know God.

Overall, chapter 4 of 1 John emphasizes the importance of discerning false prophets, loving one another, and confessing that Jesus is the Son of God. John emphasizes that love comes from God and that loving others is evidence that we know God. He warns against fear and false prophets and reminds his readers that God is love.

Here are some important verses from 1 John chapter 4:

1. Verse 1: "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

Explanation: This verse warns against blindly accepting every teaching or message, and encourages believers to discern whether a message is from God or not.

Location: 1 John 4:1

2. Verse 7: "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God."

Explanation: This verse emphasizes the importance of love and highlights it as a key trait of those who belong to God.

Location: 1 John 4:7

3. Verse 10: "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

Explanation: This verse defines love as being rooted in God's actions toward us, specifically his sending of Jesus to pay the penalty for our sins.

Location: 1 John 4:10

4. Verse 19: "We love because he first loved us."

Explanation: This verse emphasizes the idea that our ability to love others is rooted in God's love for us.

Location: 1 John 4:19

In 1 John chapter 4, there are several theological thoughts and potential theological influences that can be discussed:

**God is Love:** One of the central theological thoughts in this chapter is the idea that "God is love" (1 John 4:8). This concept has profound theological implications. It emphasizes that love is an essential attribute of God's nature. It also informs Christian theology about the nature of God and the importance of love as a central virtue in the Christian life.

**Testing the Spirits:** John warns believers to test the spirits to discern whether they are from God. This reflects a theological concern for discernment and the need to distinguish between true and false teachings or spiritual influences. It underscores the importance of theological discernment within the Christian community.

**Incarnation:** In 1 John 4:2-3, there is a reference to the confession that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. This reflects the theological concept of the Incarnation, the belief that God became human in the person of Jesus Christ. The affirmation of Christ's true humanity and true divinity is a foundational Christian doctrine.

Love for One Another: The chapter continues to emphasize the importance of love, particularly love for one another among believers. This aligns with the theological teaching of Jesus that love for God and love for neighbor are central commandments in Christianity.

Fear and Love: John contrasts fear and love, suggesting that perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18). This has theological implications for the believer's relationship with God. It reflects the theological idea that a mature faith is marked by trust and love for God rather than fear.

Theological Influence:

1 John chapter 4 has had significant theological influence in various ways:

Doctrine of God's Love: The declaration that "God is love" is a foundational theological statement that has greatly influenced Christian theology and spirituality. It shapes how Christians understand God's character and the role of love in their faith.

Incarnation and Christology: The affirmation of Jesus Christ coming in the flesh reinforces the importance of the Incarnation in Christian theology and Christological discussions. It has been a key reference point in debates about the nature of Christ.

Ethics and Love: The emphasis on love as a central virtue and the call to love one another has had a profound impact on Christian ethics and the way believers are called to live in community and engage with others.

Discernment: The admonition to test the spirits has influenced discussions on theological discernment and the need for believers to critically evaluate teachings and spiritual experiences.

Overall, 1 John chapter 4 contributes to the theological understanding of God's nature, love, the Incarnation, ethical living, and discernment within the Christian faith. Its teachings continue to shape Christian theology and practice.

1 John 5

New International Version

Faith in the Incarnate Son of God

5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. 2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. 3 In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

6 This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. 7 For there are three that testify: 8 the[a] Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. 9 We accept human testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. 10 Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. 11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

#### Concluding Affirmations

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

16 If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that you should pray about that. 17 All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.

18 We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them. 19 We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. 20 We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

21 Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

#### Footnotes

1 John 5:8 Late manuscripts of the Vulgate testify in heaven: the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one. 8 And there are three that testify on earth: the (not found in any Greek manuscript before the fourteenth century)

Chapter 5 of 1 John begins with the apostle John emphasizing the importance of faith in Jesus Christ, saying that everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God. He says that those who love God will also love His children, and that obeying God's commands is a sign of love.

John then says that those who are born of God overcome the world, and that the victory that overcomes the world is our faith in Jesus Christ. He says that Jesus came by water and blood, and that the Spirit testifies to this truth. He also says that those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony of God in them.

Next, John emphasizes the importance of prayer, saying that if we ask anything according to God's will, He hears us. He says that if we know that someone is sinning, we should



pray for them, and that if anyone sees their brother or sister committing a sin that does not lead to death, they should pray for them, and God will give them life. John then says that those who are born of God do not continue to sin, but those who are born of the devil continue to sin. He says that those who are born of God are protected by Him, and that the evil one cannot harm them. Finally, John emphasizes that those who believe in Jesus Christ have eternal life, and that those who do not have the Son of God do not have life. He says that he has written these things so that those who believe in the Son of God may know that they have eternal life. Overall, chapter 5 of 1 John emphasizes the importance of faith in Jesus Christ, obedience to God's commands, and prayer. John reminds his readers that those who are born of God overcome the world and that they are protected by Him. He emphasizes that eternal life is found only in Jesus Christ and that he has written these things so that his readers may have assurance of their salvation.

Here are some important verses from 1 John chapter 5:

1. Verse 1: "Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well."

Explanation: This verse emphasizes the connection between belief in Jesus as the Messiah and being born of God, and also highlights the importance of loving other believers as part of God's family.

Location: 1 John 5:1

2. Verse 3: "In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome."

Explanation: This verse emphasizes the importance of obedience to God's commands as a sign of our love for him, and suggests that following his commands should not feel like a heavy burden.

Location: 1 John 5:3

3. Verse 11-12: "And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."

Explanation: These verses emphasize the centrality of Jesus Christ in our salvation, and the importance of having a personal relationship with him in order to receive eternal life.

Location: 1 John 5:11-12

4. Verse 21: "Dear children, keep yourselves from idols."

Explanation: This verse serves as a warning against putting anything or anyone above God in our lives, and emphasizes the importance of maintaining a pure and focused devotion to him.

Location: 1 John 5:21

In 1 John chapter 5, there are several theological thoughts and potential theological influences that can be discussed:

Faith in Jesus as the Son of God: The chapter begins with a statement about the importance of faith in Jesus as the Son of God (1 John 5:1). This underscores the theological concept of faith as central to the Christian experience and salvation.

**Overcoming the World:** The chapter speaks of believers overcoming the world through their faith (1 John 5:4). This theological idea emphasizes the victory that faith in Christ brings over the sinful and worldly influences in one's life.

**Witnesses and Testimony:** John mentions the importance of God's testimony and the witness of the Spirit, water, and blood (1 John 5:6-9). This has theological implications for the understanding of God's revelation and the witness of the Holy Spirit within the Christian life.

**Eternal Life:** The chapter speaks of eternal life as a gift from God through faith in His Son (1 John 5:11-12). This highlights the theological concept of salvation and the promise of eternal life through Christ.

**Prayer and God's Will:** John encourages believers to pray according to God's will, expressing confidence that God hears and answers such prayers (1 John 5:14-15). This has theological implications for the relationship between prayer and God's sovereignty.

**Theological Influence:**

1 John chapter 5 has had theological influence in various ways:

**Faith and Salvation:** The emphasis on faith in Jesus as the Son of God and the source of eternal life has played a significant role in shaping Christian beliefs about salvation through faith.

**Overcoming the World:** The concept of believers overcoming the world through their faith has influenced Christian teaching on sanctification and the believer's victory over sin and worldly temptations.

**Witness and Testimony:** The discussion of witnesses and testimony has contributed to theological discussions about the reliability of Christian revelation and the role of the Holy Spirit in bearing witness to the truth of Christ.

**Eternal Life:** The promise of eternal life through faith in Christ is a central theological concept in Christian soteriology (the study of salvation) and eschatology (the study of the end times).

**Prayer:** John's teaching on prayer aligns with broader Christian teachings on the importance of prayer and the believer's relationship with God through communication and supplication.

Overall, 1 John chapter 5 reinforces key theological concepts related to faith, salvation, victory over sin, the role of witnesses and testimony, eternal life, and the significance of prayer in the Christian faith. Its teachings continue to shape Christian theology and practice.

Notes:

There are certain theological and philosophical questions related to the book of 1 John that have been debated by scholars and theologians for centuries. These include:

1. The nature of sin and whether it is possible for believers to attain sinless perfection. The book of 1 John stresses the importance of living a righteous life and avoiding sin, but also acknowledges that believers are not entirely free from sin (1 John 1:8). Some interpret this to mean that sin is an unavoidable aspect of the human condition, while others argue that believers can attain sinless perfection through the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. The relationship between faith and works. The book of 1 John emphasizes the importance of both faith and works, but some interpret this to mean that salvation is earned through good works, while others argue that good works are simply a natural outgrowth of true faith.
3. The nature of the Trinity and the relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The book of 1 John contains several passages that refer to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but the precise nature of their relationship is a subject of ongoing debate among Christians.
4. The relationship between love and obedience. The book of 1 John emphasizes the importance of both loving God and obeying his commandments, but the exact relationship between these two concepts is a subject of debate.

These are just a few examples of the difficult questions that have been raised in relation to the book of 1 John. While there may not be definitive answers to these questions, they provide an opportunity for thoughtful reflection and discussion among Christians.