



1 John

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1 John

# 1 John 5:1

- Verses 1-5 are the continuation of chapter 4, about loving one another.
- The fundamental test for new birth: belief that Jesus is the Messiah.
  - Belief, not knowledge.
    - Literally “The one having faith” or “The one trusting” ([Note verse list, 1 John archives page](#))
    - **ΠΙΣΤΕÚΩ** [*pisteuo*] (Strong's 4100) is a much stronger word than “to have knowledge,” and it always involves trust, commitment, confidence, and conviction.
    - What about James 2:19?
      - The demons believe that there is one God, and this causes them to tremble.
      - The demons do not believe (*pisteuo*) that Jesus is the Messiah. See Luke 4:34, note their knowledge but not their belief.

# 1 John 5:1

- The fundamental test for new birth: belief that Jesus is the Messiah.
  - Action: Belief, not knowledge.
  - Content: Messiah – promised Redeemer
  - Result: has been born of God
    - This is the word for birth, unlike “begotten” in 4:9
    - This is in the *perfect passive* tense: It took place at a point in time, it continues its effect forever, and the participant was not its active cause.
- A natural outflow of new birth: Love
  - Of the Father
  - Of the Father’s other children (“one another”)
    - Be careful to avoid interpreting “the one born of Him” as Jesus. Jesus was not born.



# 1 John 5:1

- Translation issues

- “*Every person who believes that Jesus is, in fact, the Messiah, is God-begotten...* (1 John 5:1, The Message)
- “*Whoever believes that Jesus is the Messiah is a child of God; and whoever loves a father loves his child also.*” (1 John 5:1, GNB)
- Both of these translations fail to convey the new birth experience. Though the person is “God-begotten” or “a child of God,” these translations leave open the possibility that they have always been in this state.
- The literal translation, “...is having been born of God.”

# 1 John 5:2-3

- In v. 1 John says when we are born of God we love others born of Him.
- In v. 2 John gives us a “reverse test” to see if we love others born of Him: do we love God and His commandments?
- In v. 3 loving God is defined as keeping His commands, and that doing so is not burdensome.
  - There is a false accusation that those who preach grace teach *antinomianism*.
  - I preach a grace Gospel, not a Lordship salvation.
  - I believe that those who place their faith in Jesus Christ begin to love God, other believers, and the obedience of God’s commands, to the extent that obedience is a joyful, not burdensome endeavor.

# 1 John 5:2-3

- Translation Issues-

- “For *our love for God means* that we obey his commands. *And his commands are not too hard for us,*” (1 John 5:3, GNB)
  - The Greek text doesn’t give the *results* of the “love for God” but the definition of the “love of God.”
    - John 14:15, 2 John 6
  - Difficulty of commands is not the point. Anyone is *able* to keep God’s commands, but those who are not born of God find His commands *heavy*.
- “The *proof that we love God* comes when we keep his commandments and they are *not at all troublesome.*” (1 John 5:3, The Message)
  - The Greek text doesn’t speak about any kind of *proof*, rather, it is giving a *definition* of the love of God.
  - The Greek text doesn’t speak about whether the commands are *troublesome*. They will be troublesome to others and troublesome to fulfill (not easy), BUT they will not be *heavy* for us to carry, because the love of God makes them light.



# 1 John 5:4-5

- Verse 4 explains why the commandments of God are not burdensome: because those having been born from God “conquer” the world.
  - **νικάω [nikao] Strong's #3528** Verb form of *nike* (victory).
    - Luke 11:22, Romans 12:21, Revelation 2:7, John 16:33
  - This is the *victory* that “*victorizes*” the world: our faith.
- Verse 5 is a restating of verse 4
  - *Faith* in v. 4 is the noun, *believes* in verse 5 is the verb of the same root word.
    - When victory is an action, it is *overcoming*
    - When faith is an action, it is *believing*
  - Faith in God, love for God, love for God’s Children, obedience to God’s commands are all intertwined in these verses. Those who would try to separate them will find too many connections to do so neatly. They are not “rightly divided,” they belong together.

# 1 John 5:4-5

- An evangelistic appeal-
  - The only way to overcome (victorize / conquer / triumph) over this world is to “faith” (believe) that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah-Savior.
  - What do we overcome?
    - The kosmos—the world of sin and evil, the trappings of this world
  - Is the life of overcoming burdensome?
    - It is something that is given to us when we exercise faith.
    - It is the most freeing experience that any of us have ever experienced.
    - It is made possible by the completed work of Jesus Christ, in whom we place our faith.

# Questions?

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- New on website:
  - Old Testament Salvation (article)
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- Join me in Lafayette, LA, April 11-12
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- Thank you, Club members!