



1 John

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1 John

1 John 5:14

- Since we “faith” in Him (v. 13), we have *confidence in Him*.
 - An interesting word, [3954](#) παρρησία [parrhesia /par-rhay-see-ah/]. From Pas (all) and rheo (flowing). That is, holding nothing back, unreserved, etc. See [Mk 8:32](#) for a common usage.
 - Often translated “openly” or “plainly” or “boldly”
 - John 7:13
 - John 7:26
 - 1 John 4:17
- “If we ask anything...”
 - The word “anything” is not in the text. In order to have confidence, we must do two things-
 - Ask! The “if” with a subjunctive verb (might ask) is a *possibility*, not an *assurance*.
 - Ask within His will!
 - “Ye have not because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss...” (James 4:2-3)

1 John 5:14 – Translation Issues

- “*And how bold and free we then become in his presence, freely asking according to his will, sure that he’s listening.*” (1 John 5:14, The Message)
 - As believers, we *have* this confidence, we don’t *become* “bold and free,” we are “bold and free” *in Him*.
 - Bold *in Him* is far different from bold *in His presence*. One is dependent, the other is arrogant.

1 John 5:15

- “If we know that He hears us”
 - An “if” with a non-subjunctive is an *assurance* not a possibility.
 - “Since we know that He hears us” conveys the confidence we have in Him.
- Note again that we cannot pray for “whatever” and have any confidence. The criteria of “His will” remains.
- “We know that we have the requests” even though the requests may not yet be given.
 - “Know” is *eido*, a perception knowledge, not an *experiential* knowledge.

1 John 5:15 – Translation Issues

- “*And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*” (1 John 5:15, NIV)
 - This is a “confidence” that we have NOT been given.
 - That which is out of His will He refuses to hear.
 - “that which we ask” would be a better translation, knowing that we are only asking “that which is in His will.”

1 John 5:16-17

- “If anyone sees...”
 - To see here is by perception or by sight
 - Be careful calling others out on sin when it is perception only
 - Remember *habeas corpus* – “*you shall have the body*”
 - A *writ of habeas corpus* is called the “Great Writ” and is a protective measure for the accused
 - If others are accusing you, it is not unwise to exercise this right or a writ!
- “his brother...”
 - This is a key element in interpreting this passage
 - John has consistently used “brother” to be “believer”

1 John 5:16-17

- “If anyone sees...”
- “his brother...”
- “sin a sin which is not unto death”
 - Catholic theology has created “mortal” and “venial” sins based on this passage.
 - What sin could this be?
 - Unbelief?
 - It leads to spiritual death
 - A capital crime?
 - It leads to death...at least if you do it in Texas (or in the Old Testament)
 - Taking the Lord’s Supper wrong?
 - It led to the death of *some* but not *all*

1 John 5:16-17

- “If anyone sees...”
- “his brother...”
- “sin a sin which is not unto death”
- “he shall ask, and he shall give him life...”
 - Who shall ask whom, and who shall give this life?
 - KJV gives the best word for word translation. NASB gives an interpretation: “he shall ask and *God* will give...”
- “there is a sin unto death”
 - Literally, there is “sin” unto death.
 - It is singular, but not necessarily particular (there is no definite article).
 - See Matthew 12:31, Romans 5:12-13
- “I do not say he should pray for it”
 - Literally “make request” not “pray” (an interpretation, not a translation).

1 John 5:16-17

- “If anyone sees...”
- “his brother...”
- “sin a sin which is not unto death”
- “he shall ask, and he shall give him life...”
- “there is a sin unto death”
- “I do not say he should pray for it”
- “All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not unto death”
 - If “the wages of sin is death” how is there “sin not unto death?”
 - By theological necessity, the death here must be physical death.
 - Not every sin comes with the death penalty.

1 John 5:16-17

- A possible interpretation
 - If you, as a believer, are wronged by another believer, but that sin is not a capital crime, ask that believer to repent, and then be ready to freely give them “life” when they do so.
 - You have committed a sin
 - There is no further injustice done if this sin does not “go to court”
 - I am here to forgive you, if you will allow me to do so
- Is there any Biblical evidence?
 - John 6:63 uses “life” in a non-literal manner
 - 2 Corinthians 3:6 says the Spirit “gives life,” but *life* is not used here as *eternal life*, but rather *real life*.
- *This is not a strong argument, but all arguments on these verses have some problems.*

1 John 5:18-19

- Who is “born of God?” –see 1 Jn 5:1
- No one “born of God sins,” but “if we say we have no sin, we lie” (1:8).
 - “unrighteousness is sin” (v. 17) and “if you confess...He will cleanse you of all unrighteousness” (1:9)
- “but keeps himself”
 - KJV is correct
 - NASB is an interpretation an incorrect grammatically: “He (Christ) who was born of God keeps him (the believer).”
 - While this is true theologically, it is not what these words actually say.
 - There is a reflexive “keeping” in the text, thus “keeps himself” is the only option.
- “the evil one does not touch him”
 - This is a statement of result
 - “resist the devil and he will flee from you”
 - Satan has no jurisdiction over God’s property (v. 19)

1 John 5:20

- “The Son of God has come and given us understanding”
 - This is not in a Calvinist sense, but simply the truth of Hebrews 1:1-3
- “so that we may *know* him”
 - This is an experiential knowledge
 - “We *know* that the Son of God has come” is a reflective knowledge...brain power
- “This is the true God and eternal life”
 - "Jesus is God" and "Jesus is eternal life." Two powerful statements.
 - Greek is literally, "This the true God and Eternal life is."
 - The "This" can be nothing other than Jesus Christ, God's Son.
 - This is what John said in the prologue (1:1-2)

1 John 5:21

- Guard yourselves from idols
 - This seems like a strange conclusion
 - John has just said, “Jesus is God” and “Jesus is eternal life”
 - Jesus as eternal God is the only Christian position. All other positions and concepts of Jesus are "idols." Thus, Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons are idol worshipers, worshiping an idol they *call Jesus, just as the Hebrews worshiped an idol they called Yahweh.*

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