**The First General Epistle of John**

**1 John Chapter 1**

1What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we looked at and our hands touched, concerning the word of life 2(the life was revealed, and we have seen and are testifying and are declaring to you the life in the age *to come*, which was with the Father and was revealed to us)…. 3What we have seen and heard we also declare to you, so that you also can have fellowship with us; and *indeed* our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.[[1]](#footnote-22466) 4And we are writing these things so that our joy may be made complete.

5And this is the message that we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light and there is no darkness in him at all. 6If we say that we have fellowship with him but continue to walk in the darkness, we are lying and are not obeying the truth. 7*But* if we continue to walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

**1 John Chapter 2**

1My little children, I write these things to you so that you will not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an advocate *who intercedes for us* with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2And he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the whole world.

3And this is how we know that we have come to know him: if we keep his commandments. 4Whoever says, “I have come to know him,” and does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5But whoever keeps his word, the love of God has truly reached its goal in this person.

This is how we know that we are in *union with* him: 6the one who says he remains in *union with* him is obligated to walk just as he walked.

7Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you heard. 8On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in him and in you because the darkness is passing away and the true light already shines. 9Whoever says he is in the light and *yet* hates his brother or sister is still in the darkness. 10Whoever loves his brother or sister remains in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. 11But whoever hates his brother or sister is in the darkness and walks in the darkness and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

12I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. 13I am writing to you, fathers, because you have known the one who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the Wicked One.

14I have written to you, children, because you have known the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you have known the one who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong and the word of God remains in you and you have overcome the Wicked One.

15Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him, 16because all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in one’s lifestyle[[2]](#footnote-27670)—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17And the world is passing away, and *also* its desires, but whoever does the will of God remains forever.[[3]](#footnote-24418)

18Children, it is the last hour, and just as you heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. By this we know that it is the last hour. 19They went out from us, but they were not *really* from us; for if they had been from us, they would have remained with us. But *they went out, and* so it was revealed that none of them are from us. 20But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know *the truth*.

21I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie comes from the truth. 22Who is a liar if not the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is an antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. 23Everyone who denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also. 24*As for* you, what you have heard from the beginning must remain in you! If what you have heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in *union with* the Son and the Father. 25And this is the promise that he himself promised us: life in the age *to come*.

26I have written these things to you about those who *are trying to* deceive you. 27And *as for* you, the anointing that you received from him remains in you, and you do not need for anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, remain in him.

28And now, little children, remain in him, so that when he appears, we will have confidence and not shrink back in shame from him at his coming. 29If you know that he is righteous, you also know that everyone who continues to practice righteousness has been born of him.

**1 John Chapter 3**

1See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God, and *that is what* we are! On account of this, the world does not know us because it did not know him. 2Beloved, we are children of God now, and it has not yet been revealed what we will be. We know that when it is revealed,[[4]](#footnote-25968) we will be like him because we will see him just as he is. 3And everyone who has this hope, *which is based* upon him, purifies himself just as he is pure.

4Everyone who commits sin also commits lawlessness, indeed, sin is lawlessness. 5And you know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and there is no sin in him. 6Everyone who remains in him does not continue sinning. Everyone who continues sinning has not seen him or known him.

7Children, let no one deceive you. Whoever continues to practice righteousness is righteous, just as he is righteous. 8Whoever continues to commit sin is of the Devil,[[5]](#footnote-28306) because the Devil has been sinning from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose: to destroy the works of the Devil. 9Everyone born of God does not continue to commit sin because his seed remains in him, indeed, he cannot continue to sin because he has been born of God.

10This is how the children of God and the children of the Devil are revealed: everyone who does not continue to practice righteousness is not *born* of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother or sister. 11For this is the message that you heard from the beginning: that we should love one another, 12*and* not be like Cain, *who* was *born* of the Wicked One and slaughtered his brother. And why did he slaughter him? Because his works were wicked, but his brother’s were righteous.

13Do not be amazed, brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. 14We know that we have crossed over from death to life because we love our brothers and sisters. Whoever does not love remains in death. 15Everyone who keeps on hating his brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has life in the age *to come* remaining in him.

16This is how we have come to know love: he laid down his life for us. And *so* we are obligated to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17But whoever has material possessions,[[6]](#footnote-27463) and sees his brother or sister in need but closes off his heart[[7]](#footnote-13451) from him, how can the love of God reside in him? 18Little children, we must not love in word or speech[[8]](#footnote-31925) *only*, but *also* in truth and action.

19And this is how we will know that we are of the truth and will set our hearts at ease before him: 20if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart and knows all things. 21Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence in the presence of God, 22and whatever we ask *for* we receive from him because we keep his commandments and do the things *that are* pleasing in his sight. 23And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ[[9]](#footnote-29961) and love one another, just as he commanded us.[[10]](#footnote-24143) 24And the one who keeps his commandments remains in *union with* him, and he in him.

And this is how we know that he remains in us: by the spirit that he gave to us.

**1 John Chapter 4**

1Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits *to see* if they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

2This is how you know the spirit is from God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ[[11]](#footnote-21178) has come in the flesh is from God, 3and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; indeed, this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming, and *even* now it is already in the world.

4You are from God, little children, and have overcome them, because greater is he *who is* in you than he *who is* in the world. 5They are from the world, therefore they speak from the world’s *perspective*, and the world hears them. 6We are from God. Whoever knows God hears us, *and* whoever is not from God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

7Beloved, let us love one another because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

9This is how the love of God was revealed among us: God has sent his only begotten Son into the world so that we could live through him. 10This is what love is: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son *to be* the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also are obligated to love one another. 12No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God remains in us and his love has reached its goal in us.

13This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us: because he has given to us *a portion* of his spirit.

14And we have seen and *now* testify that the Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world. 15Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God.

16And we have known and have believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. 17This is how love has reached its goal with *respect to* us, so that we will have confidence on the Day of Judgment: because as he is, *so* also are we, *although still* in this world. 18There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear because fear has *to do with* punishment. So the one who fears has not reached the goal of love. 19We love because he first loved us. 20If anyone says, “I love God,” and *yet* hates his brother or sister, he is a liar. For whoever does not love his brother or sister whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21And we have this commandment from him, whoever loves God must love his brother and sister also.

**1 John Chapter 5**

1Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ[[12]](#footnote-30350) has been born of God, and everyone who loves the one who gave birth *to them* also loves the one who has been born of him.

2This is how we know that we love the children of God: when we love God and obey his commandments. 3For this is the love of God: that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. 4For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world: our trust. 5Now who is the one who overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

6He is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ. *He did* not *come* by water only, but by water and blood. And the spirit is what testifies *to this*, because the spirit is the truth. 7Indeed, there are three testifying: 8the spirit, and the water, and the blood—and these three are in agreement. 9If we receive the testimony of people, the testimony of God is greater. For this is the testimony of God: that he has testified about his Son. 10Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has testified about his Son. 11And this is the testimony: God has given us life in the age *to come*, and this life is in his Son. 12Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

13I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you can know that you have life in the age *to come*. 14And this is the confidence that we have in his presence: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask *according to his will*—*then* we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

16If anyone sees his brother or sister committing sin[[13]](#footnote-15459) that does not result in death, he should ask *God*, and he will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not result in death. There is sin that results in death; I am not saying that he should pray about that. 17All unrighteousness is sin, and *yet* there is sin that does not result in death.

18We know that everyone who has been born of God does not continue sinning, but the One who was born of God keeps him *safe*, and the Wicked One cannot touch him. 19We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under *the control of* the Wicked One. 20And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding so that we can know the True One, and we are in *union with* the True One *by being* in *union with* his Son Jesus Christ. This One is the true God and life in the age *to come*.

21Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

1. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-22466)
2. Lit. “pride of life” [↑](#footnote-ref-27670)
3. Lit. “into the age” [↑](#footnote-ref-24418)
4. Or “he appears” [↑](#footnote-ref-25968)
5. “Devil” is a transliteration of the Greek word diabolos, which literally means “Slanderer.” [↑](#footnote-ref-28306)
6. Lit. “goods of the world” [↑](#footnote-ref-27463)
7. Lit. “bowels” [↑](#footnote-ref-13451)
8. Lit. “tongue” [↑](#footnote-ref-31925)
9. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-29961)
10. Lit. “gave the commandment to us” [↑](#footnote-ref-24143)
11. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-21178)
12. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-30350)
13. Lit. “sinning a sin” [↑](#footnote-ref-15459)