

1 John: The Signs of Life

1:1-2:2 Summary (“Fellowship”)

- 1:1-4, Objective: Fellowship
- 1:5-2:2, Obstacle: Sin

2:3-5:12, Exposition (“Know”)

2:3-28, First Cycle

- :3-6, Righteousness
- :7-17, Love
- :18-28, Belief

2:29-4:6, Second Cycle

- 2:29-3:10a, Righteousness
- 3:10b-24a, Love
- 3:24b-4:6, Belief

4:7-5:12, Third Cycle

- 4:7-5:1, Love and Belief
- 5:2-5, Love, Righteousness, and Belief
- 5:6-12, Witnesses to Love, Righteousness, and Belief

5:13-22, Closing Summary and Exhortation

Understanding and Dealing with Sin

Things to Look For

- What is the difference between God’s faithfulness and his justice in forgiving our sins, 1:9?
- In 1:6 and 8, we were involved in the deception, but 1:10 says we make God a liar. Why the difference?
- What does it mean for Christ to be our advocate with the Father, 2:2?
- What are the differences among propitiation (2:2), cleansing (1:7, 9), redemption, and reconciliation?

1 John 1:6-2:2, Dealing with Sin

		1:6-7 Deliberate Sin	1:8-9 Discovered Sin	1:10-2:2 Dark Sin
1st Condition: The Problem	Claim of spiritual health: "if we say ..."	:6 if we say that we have fellowship ... walk in darkness	:8 if we say that we have no sin	:10 if we say that we have not sinned
	Danger of deception	we lie	we deceive ourselves truth is not in us	we make him a liar his word is not in us
	Exhortation			2:1 My little children ... do not sin
2nd Condition: The Solution	Condition	:7 if we walk in the light	:9 if we confess our sins	2:1 if any man sin (!)
	Remedy (two-fold)	we have fellowship ... the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us	he is faithful and just to forgive ... Cleanse us ...	:2 we have an advocate ... Propitiation ... whole world

Some References

9 he is faithful ...

Exo 34:6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands, **forgiving [bearing] iniquity and transgression and sin**, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

9 he is ... just ...

Rom 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, **to declare his righteousness** for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: **that he might be just**, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

10 we make him a liar

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Rom 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: (Eccl 7:20)

11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. (Psa 14:2-3; 53:2-3)

13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; (Psa 5:9) with their tongues they have used deceit; (Psa 10:7)

the poison of asps is under their lips: (Psa 140:3)

14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: (Psa 10:7)

15 Their feet are swift to shed blood:

16 Destruction and misery are in their ways:

17 And the way of peace have they not known: (Isa 59:7-8)

18 There is no fear of God before their eyes. (Psa 36:1)

1Co 4:4 For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

And some more ...

2:1 my little children

Gal. 4:19 My little children, of whom **I travail in birth** again until Christ be formed in you,

1 Cor 4:15 ... in Christ Jesus **I have begotten you** through the gospel

we have an advocate with the Father

Rom 8:34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ

- that **died**,
- yea rather, that is **[also] risen** again,
- who is even **[also] at the right hand of God**,
- who **also maketh intercession** for us.

Heb 7:24 But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. 25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to **make intercession** for them.

Rev 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the **accuser** of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

What Happened on the Cross?

Action	Effect	In 1 John?	Scope
Cleansing	Remove defilement	1:7, 9	1:7, 9 cleanse us
Redemption	Price Deliver from rival power	--	Rev 5:9 thou ... hast redeemed us to God by thy blood
Reconciliation	Repair alienation from God	--	2 Cor 5:18 God ... hath reconciled us to himself
Propitiation	Appease God's wrath	2:2	2:2 whole world

Why “the whole world”?

Exod 34:6 The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, **longsuffering**, and abundant in goodness and truth,

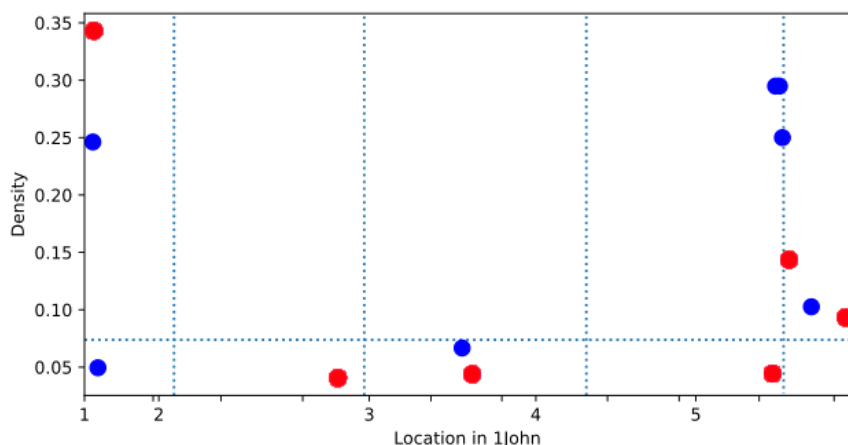
Psa 58:3 The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

Psa 7:11 God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is **longsuffering** to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

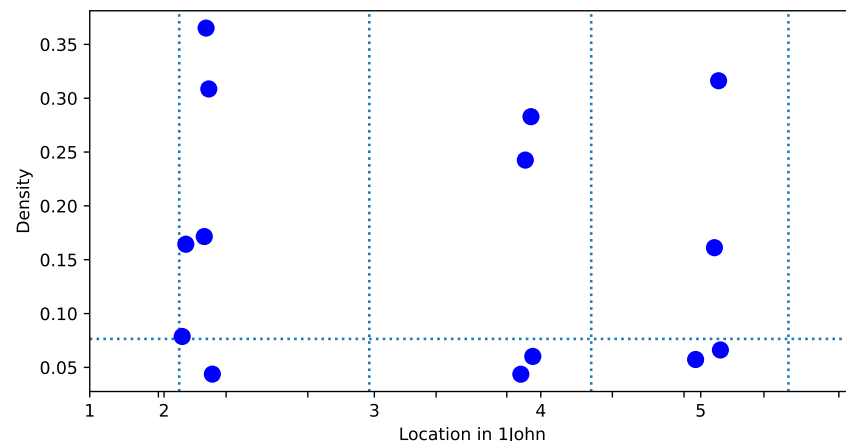
Moving from Life to its Signs

Life ζωή *zōē* G2222

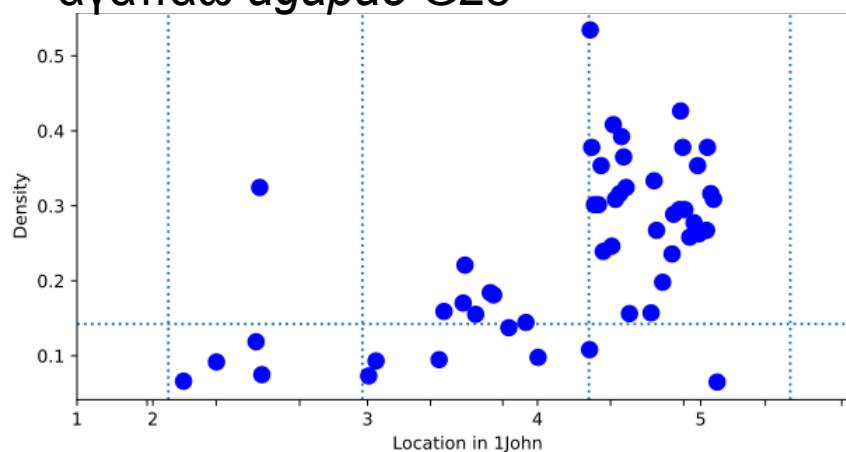


- “Life” per se is in focus at the beginning and end of the book
- In the main body, the focus shifts to the signs that true life produces.

Commandment ἐντολή *entolē* G1785



Love: noun ἀγάπη *agapē* G26, verb ἀγαπάω *agapaō* G25



Abide μένω *menō* G3306

