

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 Panel

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

2:29-4:6, Second Panel

- 2:29-3:10, Righteousness
- 3:11-24, Love
- 4:1-6, Belief

4:7-5:12, Third Panel

- 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

The Second Panel of Signs

Things to Look For

- What are the works of the Devil (3:8)
- What is the relation between Christ's manifestation in 3:5 and in 3:8?
- What are the two "messages" that John has for his readers?
- How are they related to each other?
- The righteousness section compared the children of God and of the Devil. How does John describe Cain's relation to this society?
- What made Abel's sacrifice "more excellent" than Cain's?
- What did Abel get from God that Cain did not, and why?

2:29-3:10, Righteousness

2:29-3:1, The Father **Defines** Righteousness

- Righteousness = family resemblance

(3:1 the **world** knoweth us not)

Vocative: "Beloved"

3:2-6, The Son **Manifests** Righteousness

- Our Example & Redeemer
- Past, present, future

Vocative: "Little Children"

3:7-10, The Devil **Opposes** Righteousness

- Sin = family resemblance

(3:9 **whoever is born of God** doth not commit sin)

The Devil Opposes Righteousness

7 **Little children**, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. 8 He that committeth sin is of **εκ** the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was **manifested**, that he might destroy the works of the devil. 9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 10 In this the children of God are **manifest**, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

3:8 manifested, that he might destroy the works [deeds] ...

1. What are these deeds?

2. How related to 3:5

"manifested to take away our sins"?

Jhn 8:41 **Ye do the deeds of your father.** ... 42 ... If God were your Father, ye would love me: ... 44 Ye are of your father the devil, and **the lusts of your father ye will do.**

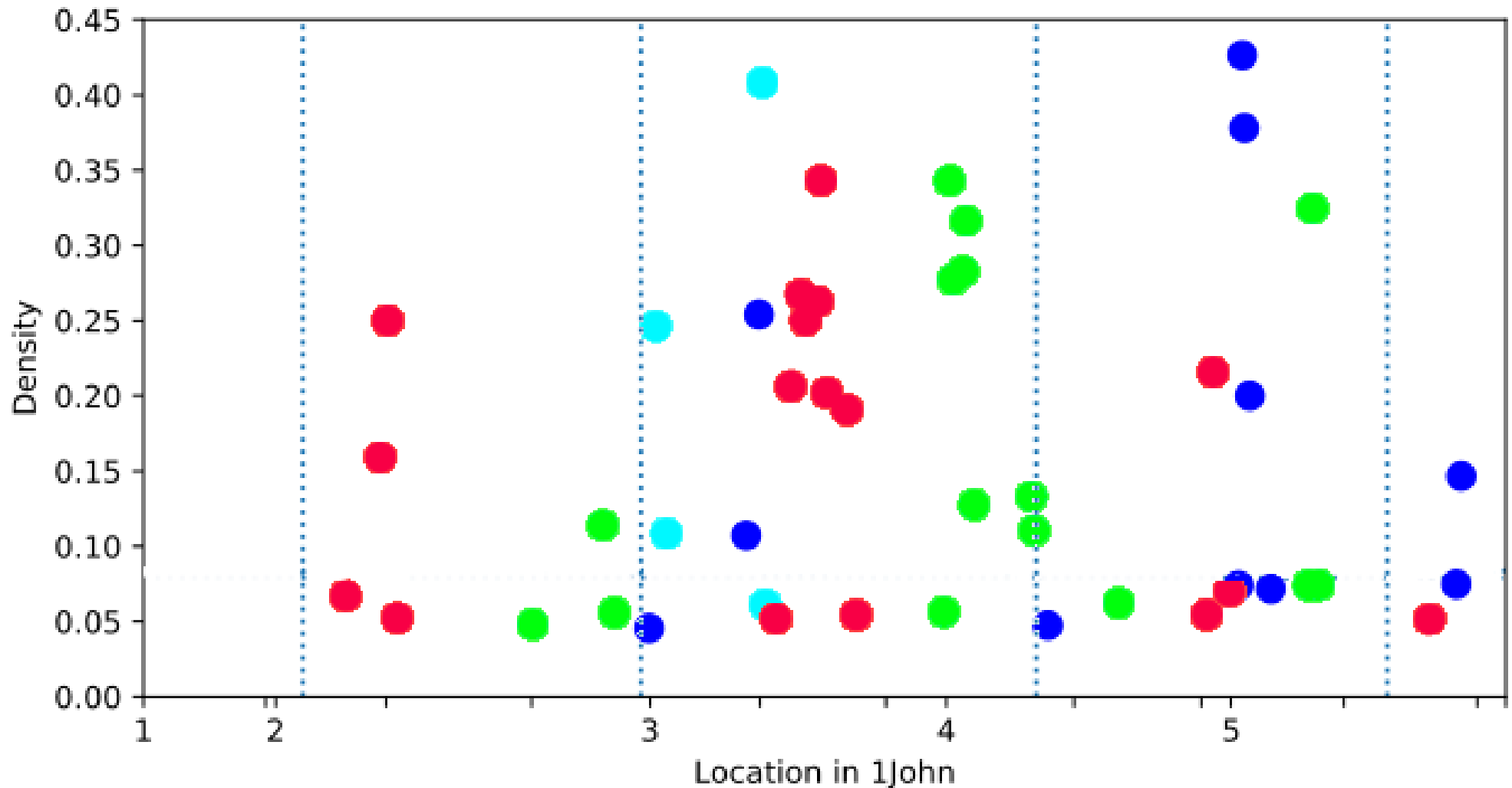
Gal 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil **the lust of the flesh.** ... 19 Now **the works of the flesh** are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which **do such things** shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

3:10 manifest ... the children of the devil

1Jn 2:19 ... they went out, **that they might be made manifest** that they were not all of us.

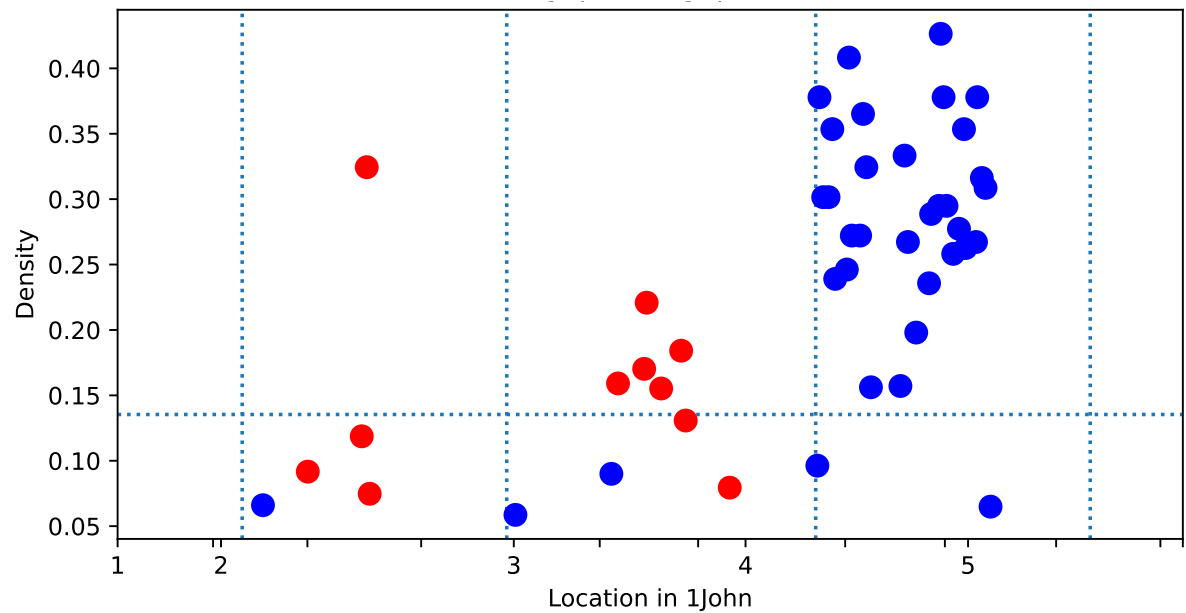
Vocabulary in the Second Panel

Verses	Sign	Vocabulary
2:29-3:10	Righteousness	Children (of God), begotten
3:11-24	Love	Brother, brethren
4:1-6	Belief	Anointing (ch. 2), spirit (elsewhere)



The Sign of Love, Second Panel

Love (noun, verb) in 1 John.
Red: “love” sections in first
two panels.



3:11-24, the Sign of Love

11, Summary from URD

12-17, Two Examples of
Love with Implications

- 12-15, Negative: Cain
- 16-17, Positive: Christ

18-24, Assurances

2x “hereby we know ...”

- 18-21, our hearts
- 22-24a, our obedience
- 24b, the Spirit

1Jn 3:11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

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12 Not as **Cain**, who was of that wicked one, and **slew his brother**. ...

16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because **he laid down his life for us**: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. ...

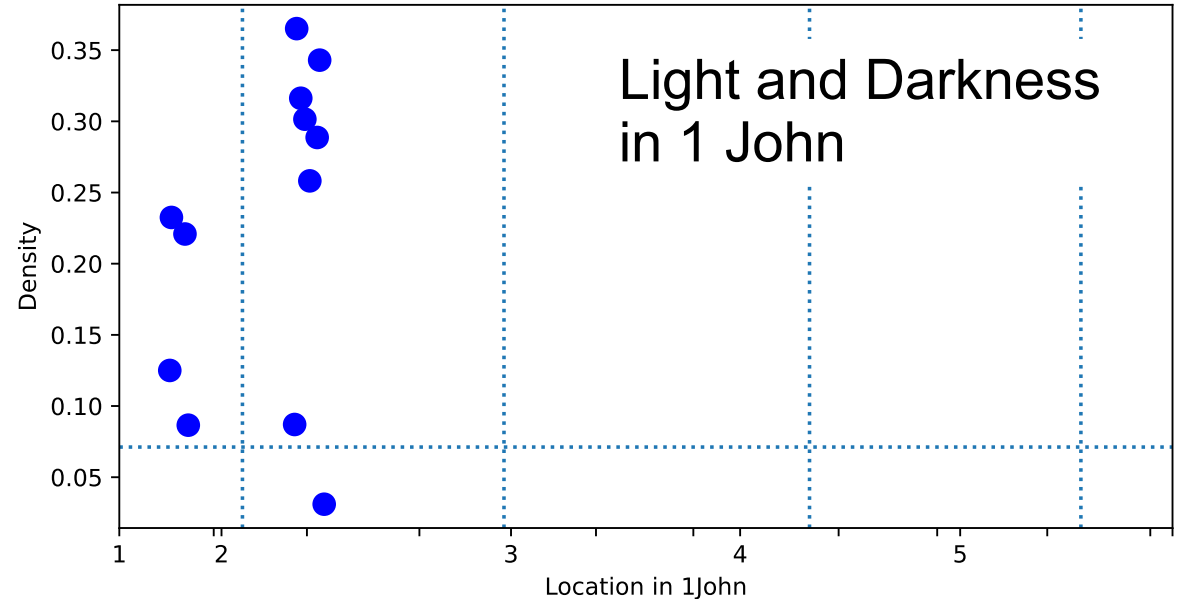
18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. 19 And **hereby we know** that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. ... 24 ... And **hereby we know** that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

Two Messages (ἄγγελία aggelia G31)

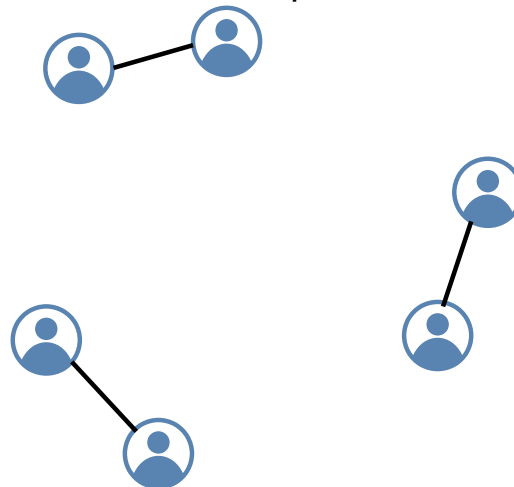
1 Jn 3:11 For this is the **message** that ye heard from the beginning, that **we should love one another**.

1 Jn 1:5 This then is the **message** which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God is light**, and in him is no darkness at all.

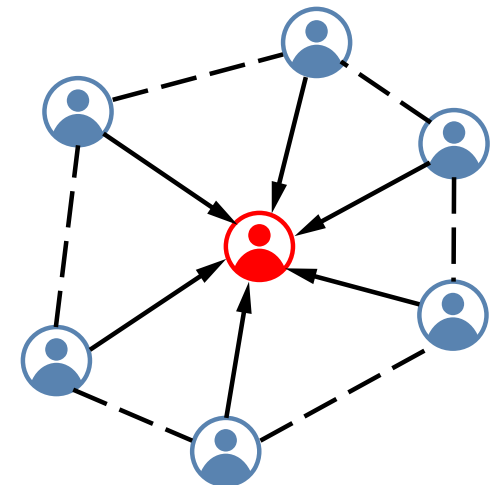
1Jn 1:2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) 3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.



“Have fellowship with each other”



“Have fellowship with **Joe**”



Light and Love

1Jn 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is **light**, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in **darkness**, we lie, and do not the truth: 7 But if we walk in the **light**, as he is in the **light**, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1Jn 2:9 He that saith he is in the **light**, and hateth his brother, is in **darkness** even until now. 10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the **light**, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. 11 But he that hateth his brother is in **darkness**, and walketh in **darkness**, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that **darkness** hath blinded his eyes.

3:11 ... from the beginning ...

1Jhn 2:7 I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. 8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, ...

Jhn 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

3:11-24, the Sign of Love

11, Summary from URD

12-17, Two Examples of Love with Implications

- 12-15, Negative: Cain
- 16-17, Positive: Christ

18-24, Assurances
2x "hereby we know ..."

- 18-21, our hearts
- 22-24a, our obedience
- 24b, the Spirit



1 John 3 12-15

12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him

What is the strong comparison used of the one who hates his brother?

5/11/25
Bilson Peters

Cain's Works were Evil

3:12 Cain ... of ἐκ that wicked one

1 Jn 2:29; 3:9 ... born of ἐκ him/God

1 Jn 3:10 ... is not of ἐκ God

1 Jn 3:8 ... is of ἐκ the devil

Jn 8:44 Ye are of ἐκ your father the devi

... **his own works were evil**
...

Gen 4:3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. 4a And Abel, he also brought of **the firstlings** of his flock and of the fat thereof.

Heb 11:4 **By faith** Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, ...

Gen 4:4b And the LORD **had respect** unto Abel and to his offering: 5 But unto Cain and to his offering he **had not respect**.

Psa 34:15 **The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous**, and his ears are open unto their cry. 16 The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

Hab. 1:13 Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and **canst not look on iniquity**:

Heb 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which **he obtained witness** that he was righteous,

Pro 15:8 **The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination** to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

Pro 21:27 **The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination**: how much more, when he bringeth it with a wicked mind?