

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

- 4:7-18, Love
- 4:19-5:4, Righteousness
- 5:5-12, Belief

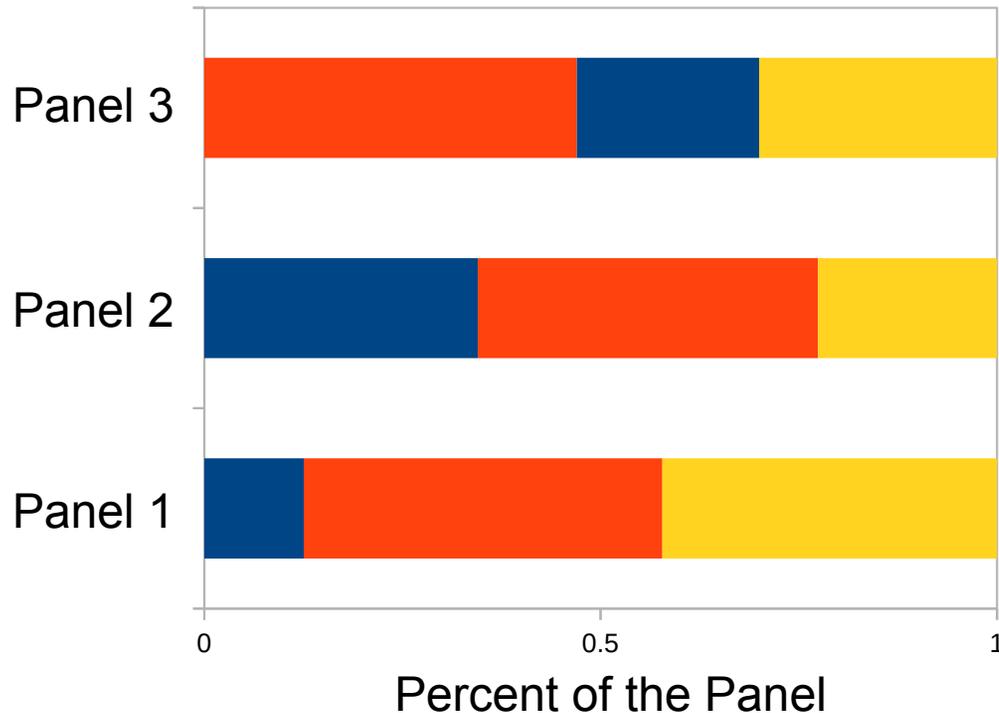
5:13-22, Closing Summary and Exhortation

The Third Panel of Signs

Things to Look For

- Which of the three signs of eternal life does John emphasize the most, and how does he show this?
- What role does the Lord Jesus play in the third Love sign?
- When John calls his readers “Beloved,” who is doing the loving?
- How is the argument in 4:7 about love like the argument in 2:29 about righteousness?
- Can one person love another without being saved?
- What is the tension between “God is love” and “God is light”?
- How has God solved this tension?

Comparing the Panels



■ Belief
■ Love
■ Righteousness

The Law of Proportion

Overall Emphasis:
Love

Panel Themes:

- 1) Belief
- 2) Righteousness
- 3) Love

Love and Belief

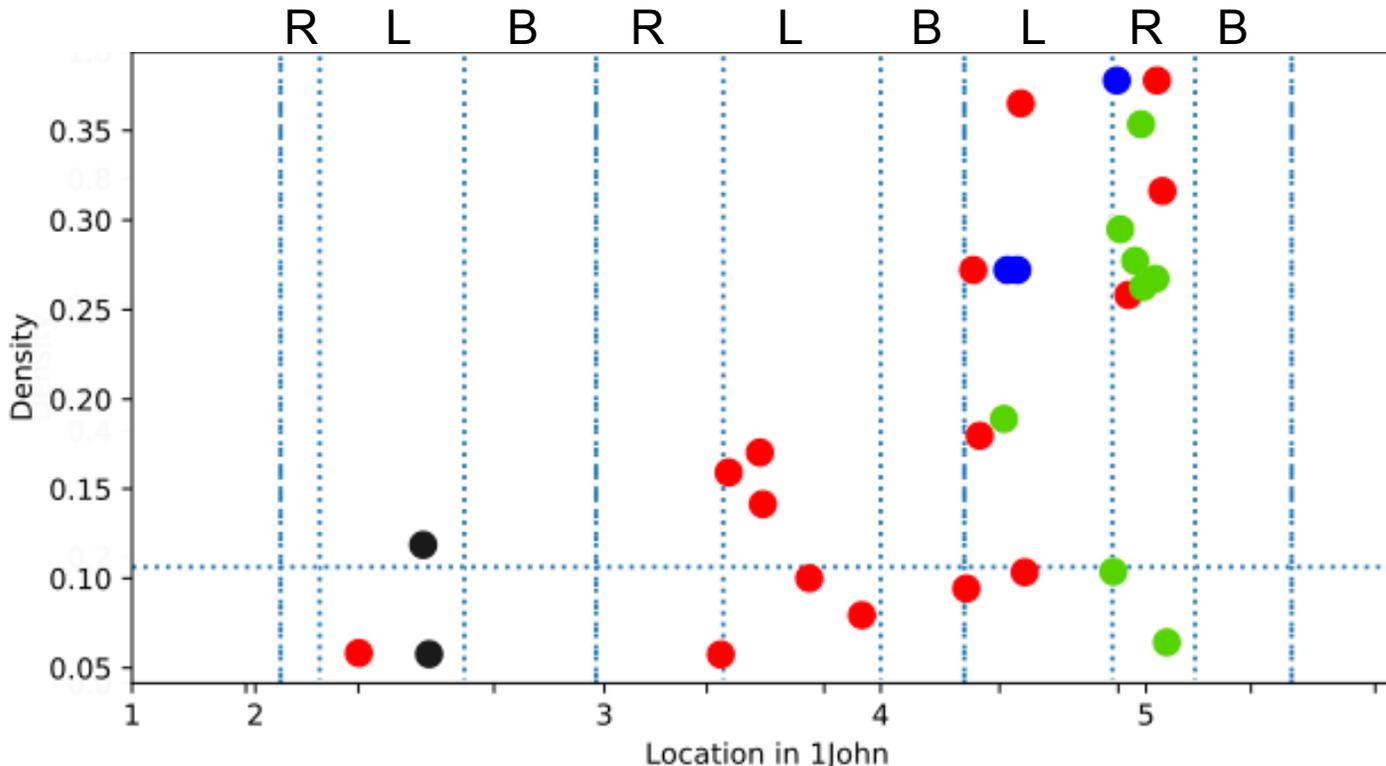
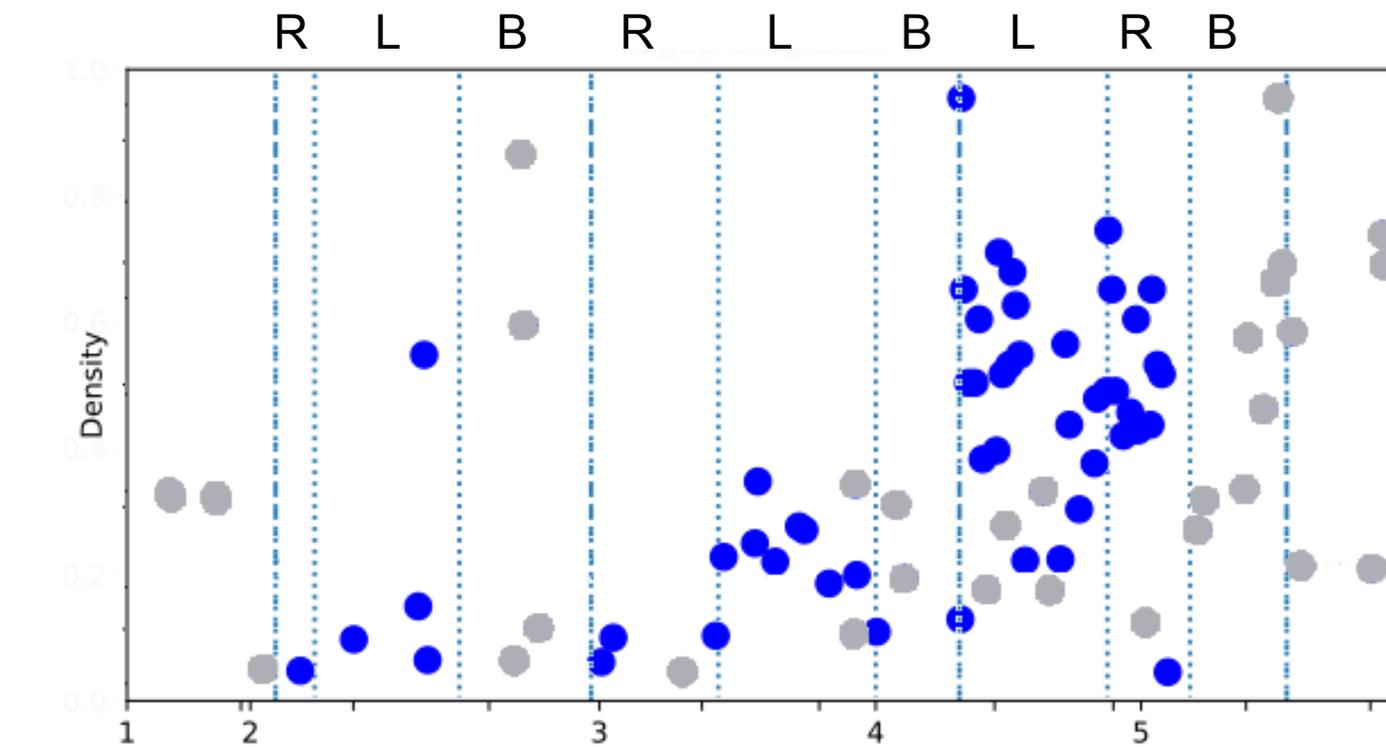
1Jn 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

Love and Righteousness

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

Key Words in the 3rd Love Section

Love (noun and verb)
(blue), Son (of God)
or Christ (grey)



The verb "to love"
(ἀγαπάω agapaō
G25) in 1 John. Color
indicates subject and
object: we love one
another (red), we love
the world (black), God
loves us (blue), we
love God (green)

Sign of Love #3

4:7-18, the Sign of Love

7-10, the Nature of God

- 7a, Summary (vocative): “love one another”
- 7b-8, His Nature Defined
- 9-10, His Nature Demonstrated

11-16, our Union with God

- 11, Summary (vocative): “love one another”
- 12-16, Dwelling in God

17-18, Assurance

7 **Beloved**, **let us love one another**:

for love is of God;

and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

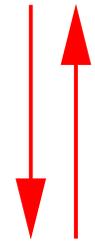
11 **Beloved**, if God so loved us, **we ought also to love one another**.

12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God **dwelleth** in us, and his love is perfected in us. 13 Hereby know we that we **dwell** in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God **dwelleth** in him, and he in God. 16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that **dwelleth** in love **dwelleth** in God, and God in him.

Argument from the Nature of God

Vocative “Beloved”

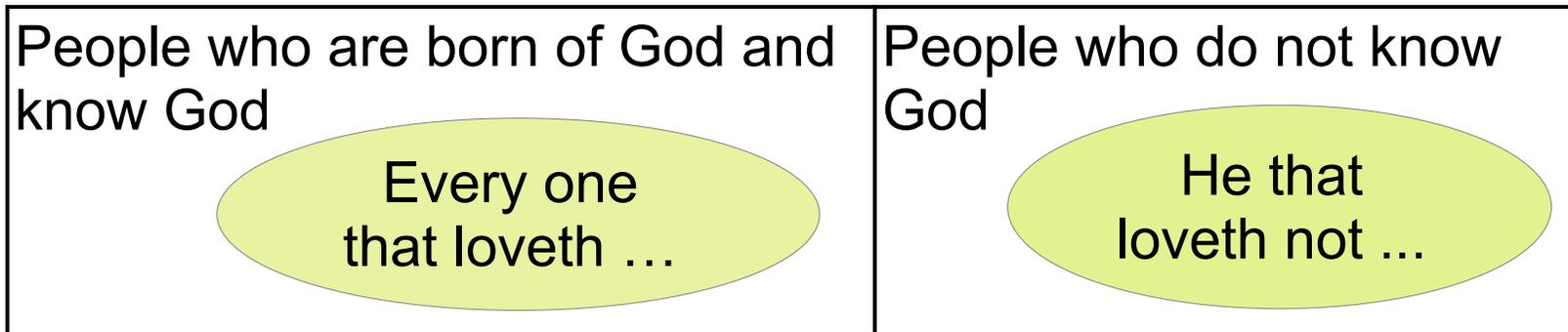
1Jn 3:1 Behold, what manner of **love the Father hath bestowed** upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. **2 Beloved**, now are we the sons of God, ...

	7b		8
Nature of God	Love is of God, ...		... for God is love
Conduct of his Children	... and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God		He that loveth not knoweth not God; ...

Compare 2nd righteousness section:

1Jn 2:29 If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

Set Equality: $(A \subseteq B) \wedge (A' \subseteq B') \rightarrow A \equiv B$
 $\{\text{Loving people}\} = \{\text{Those who know God}\}$



4:7 every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God

4:8 he that loveth not, knoweth not God

1 John 4:7-10

7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Why can a believer who does not love the brethren, not know God?



Helpful References on 4:7-8

Knoweth God ...

1John 2:3 And hereby we do know that **we know him**, if we keep his commandments.

1John 2:13 ... I write unto you, little children, because **ye have known the Father**.

1John 4:6 We are of God: **he that knoweth God** heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, **that they might know thee** the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Characterizing God

4:8 God is love

1:5 God is light

Love and Light in Exodus 34

Exo 34:6 The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands, [God is love]

forgiving 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. [God is light]

Forgiving Sin = Bearing Sin ...

- Sinner, Lev 5:17; 20:17
- Sacrifice, Lev 16:21-22
- Priest in Sin Offering, Lev 10:17
- God (often)

An Important Pattern in 4:9-10

	God's Love	Gift of his Son	Our Salvation
1 John 4:9	In this was manifested the love of God toward us,	because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world,	that we might live through him.
1 John 4:10	Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us,	and sent his Son	to be the propitiation for our sins.
Rom 5:8-9	8 But God commendeth his love toward us,	in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.	9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.
John 3:16	For God so loved the world,	that he gave his only begotten Son,	that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Not that we loved God ...

Deu 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 **And thou shalt love the LORD thy God** with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might [abundance].

the propitiation for our sins

1John 2:2 And he is the **propitiation** for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.