

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**
 - 7-10, Love from Birth
 - 11-16, Love from Abiding
 - 17-18, Assurance
- 4:19-5:4, **Righteousness**
- 5:5-12, **Belief**

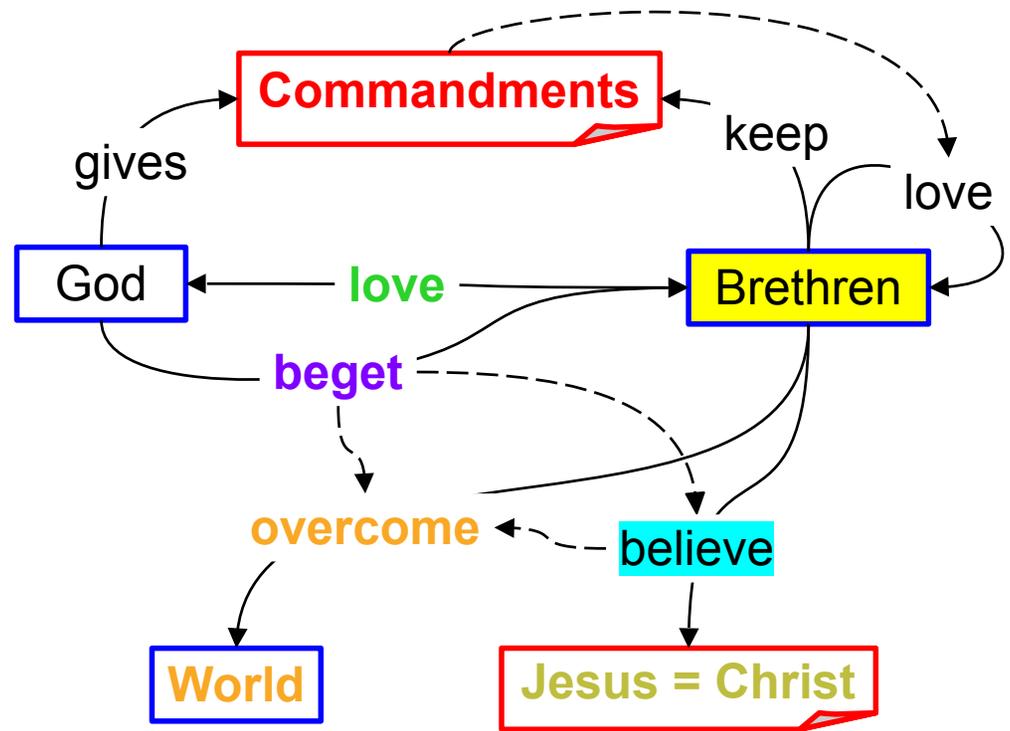
5:13-22, Closing Summary and Exhortation

The Third Panel of Signs

Things to Look For

- What is different in the use of the verb “love” in 4:19-5:3?
- How does 4:20 recall the Ten Commandments?
- How does it recall the Lord’s earthly teaching?
- Which comes first—faith or the new birth?
- 5:1-3 does not use the word “brother,” as 4:19-21 does. How does it express the same idea?
- How do we know that we love the children of God?
- How do we love the children of God?
- What might make God’s commandments grievous (5:3)?
- Why are they not grievous?

The Sign of Righteousness, Panel 3: From Concepts to Argument



	4:19-21	5:1-3	5:4	
Brother				4:19-21, The Nature of Righteousness: Loving Obedience
Love God				
Commandments				
Jesus is Christ				5:1-3, The Source of Righteousness: The New Birth
Born, Beget				
Faith, believe				
Overcome				5:4, The Effect of Righteousness: Victory
World				

4:19-21, The Nature of Righteousness: Loving Obedience

4:20a **If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar.**

1Jn 1:6 **If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:**

8 **If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**

10 **If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.**

4:20b love not his brother ... love God

Deut 6:5 And **thou shalt love the LORD thy God** with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Lev 19:18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but **thou shalt love thy neighbour** as thyself: I am the LORD.

Mat 22:35 Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, 36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God** with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, **Thou shalt love thy neighbour** as thyself.

Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7

Setting	4:25-5:2		7:28-8:1
Blessings & Warnings	5:3-12, Blessings		7:13-27, Warnings
Law & Prophets	5:17-19		7:12b
Manward: Love thy Neighbor	5:20-48 (contrast: "them of old time")		7:1-12a (absolute)
Godward: Love the Lord	6:1-18 (contrast: "the hypocrites")		6:19-34 (absolute)

Other Verses on the Nature of Righteousness

1 John 4:20 Love God ↔ Love Brother

Mat 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

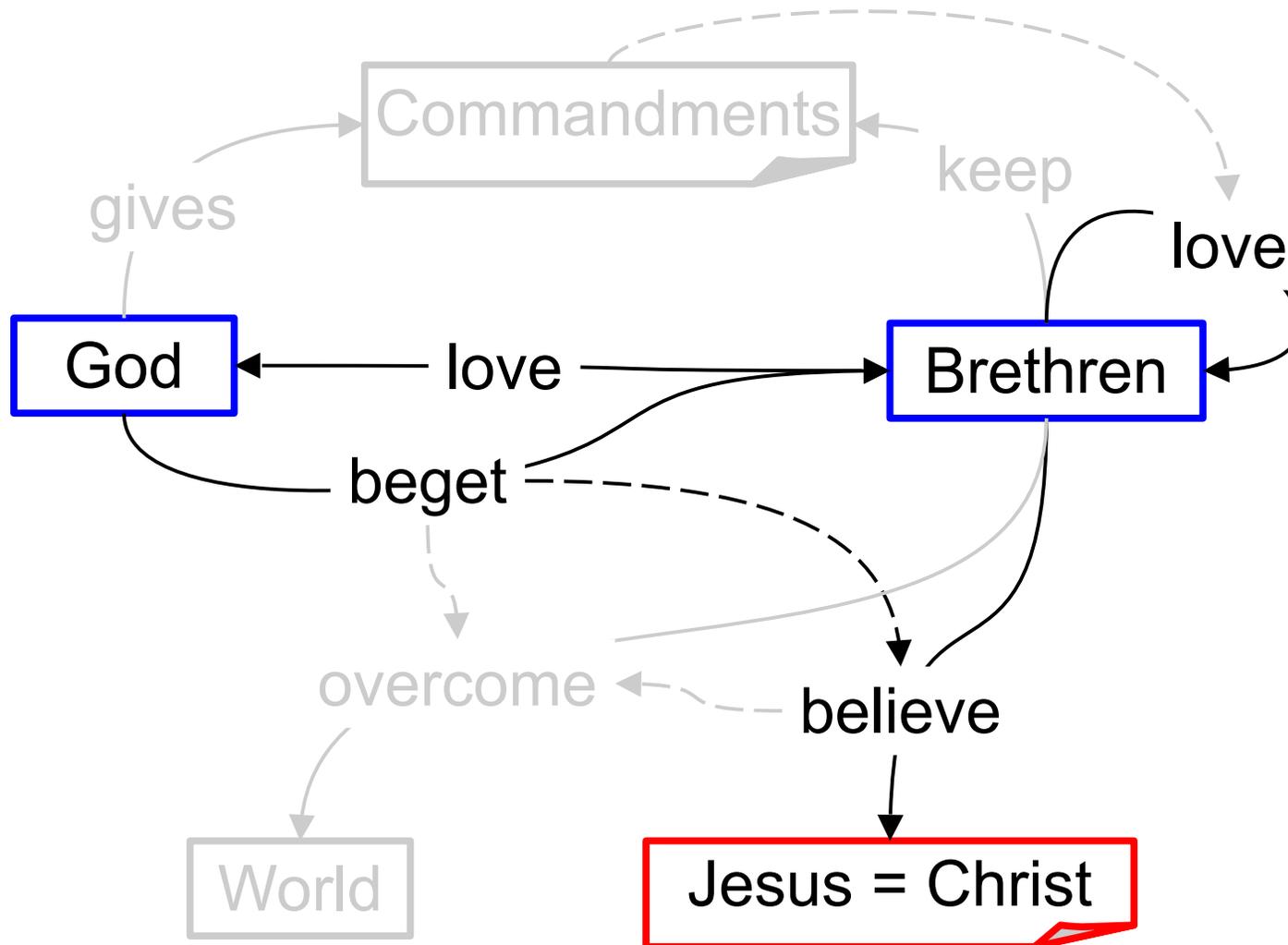
Mat 25:45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

1 John 4:21 this commandment

Jhn 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. ... 21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

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.

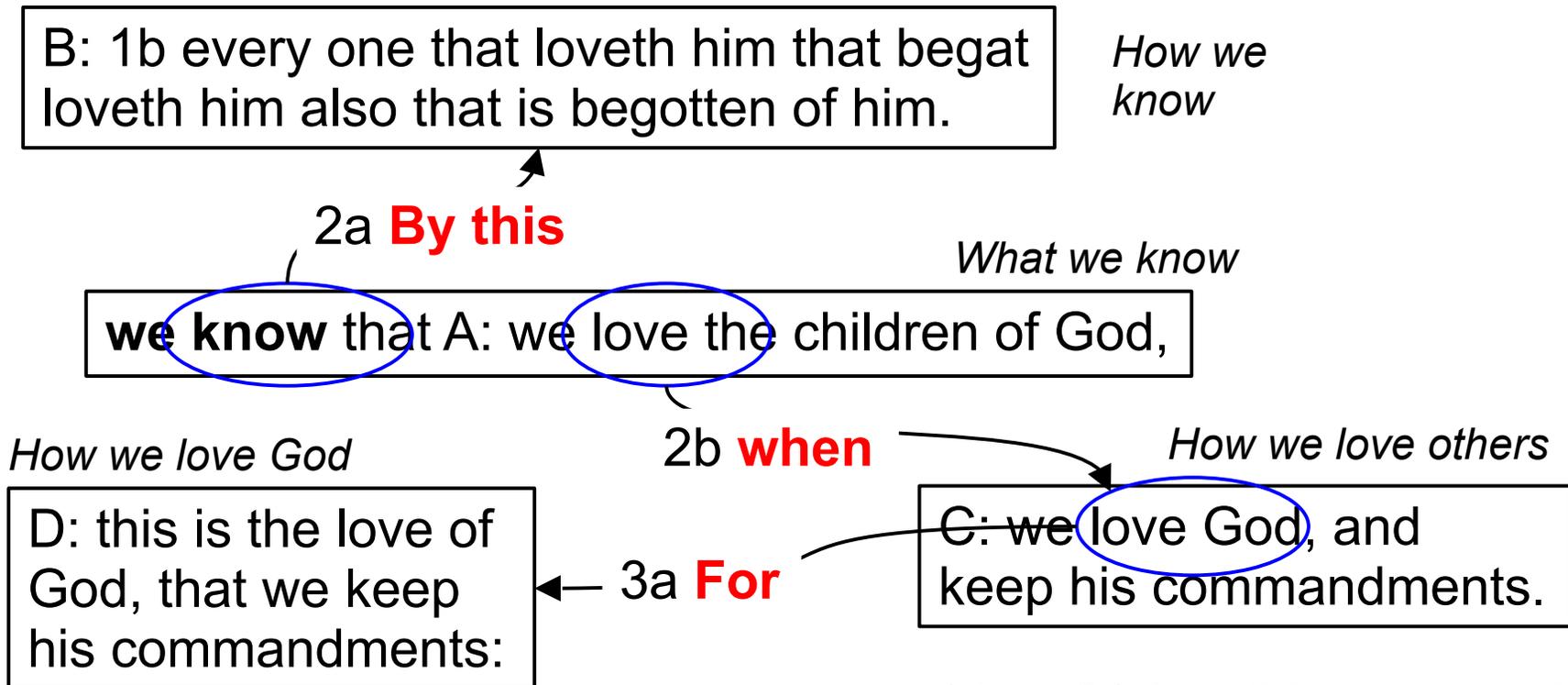
Flow of Thought in 5:1-3, The Source of Righteousness



Parsing 1 John 5:1b-3

1Jn 5:1 Whosoever **believeth** (present tense) that Jesus is the Christ is **has been** (past tense) born of God:

and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. 2 **By this** we know that we love the children of God, **when** we love God, and keep his commandments. 3 **For** this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: ...



1Jn 4:21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

5:3b his commandments are not grievous (heavy)

What might make them heavy?

1Jn 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Why are they not heavy?

5:4, “For ...”: the Effect of Righteousness (Victory over the World)

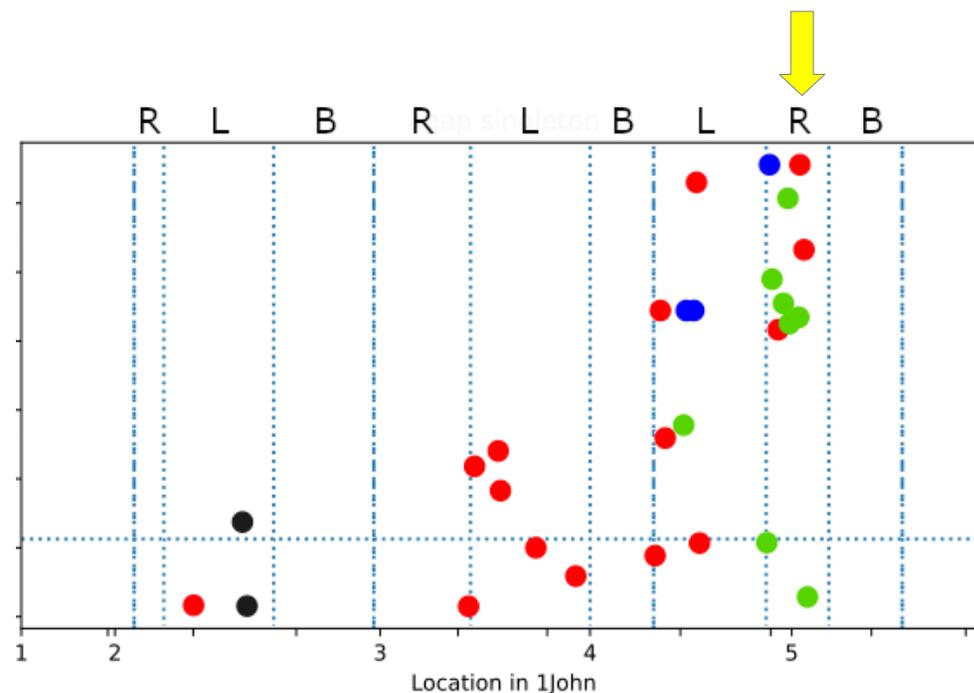
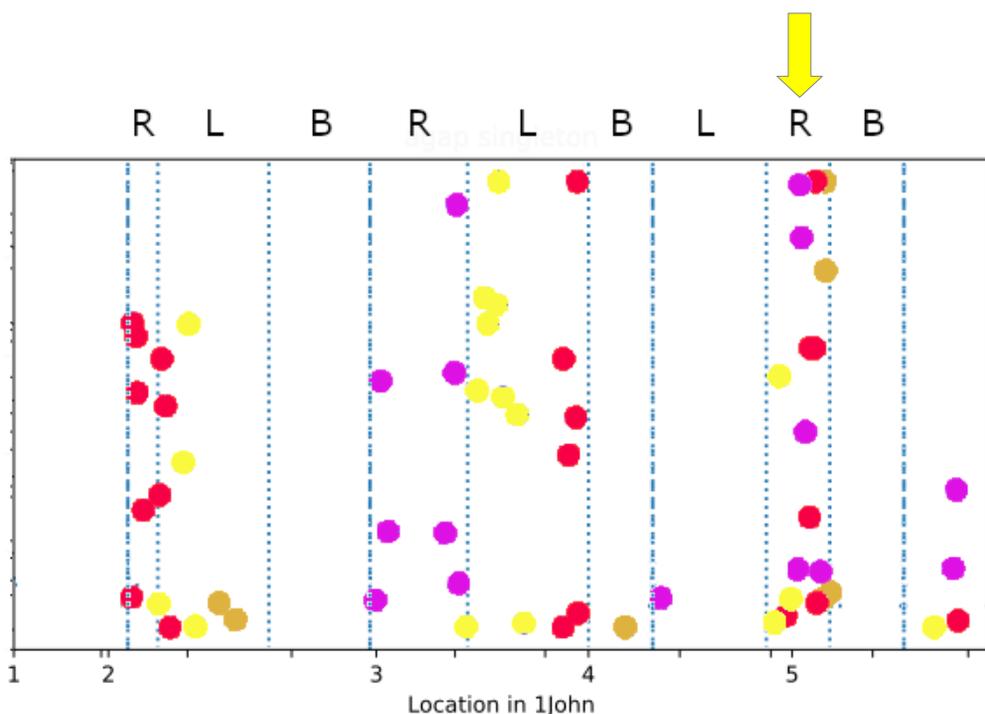
1Jn 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have **overcome** them: because **greater is he that is in you**, than he that is in the world.

1 Jn 3:9 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.

Reality of Sin	God's Provision
1:6 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.
8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.	9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.	2:1 ... if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

Summary of the Sign of Righteousness

	2:3-6	2:29-3:10	4:19-5:4
Vocabulary	Keep, Commandments	Child, Begotten	+ Love God
God's role	Lawgiver	Father	The Object of our Love



- **Keep, command** (from R1)
- **Beget, child** (from R2)
- **Brother** (from L1, L2)
- **Overcome** (from L1, B2)

- We love **others**
- We love the **world**
- God loves **us**
- We love **God**