

## 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**

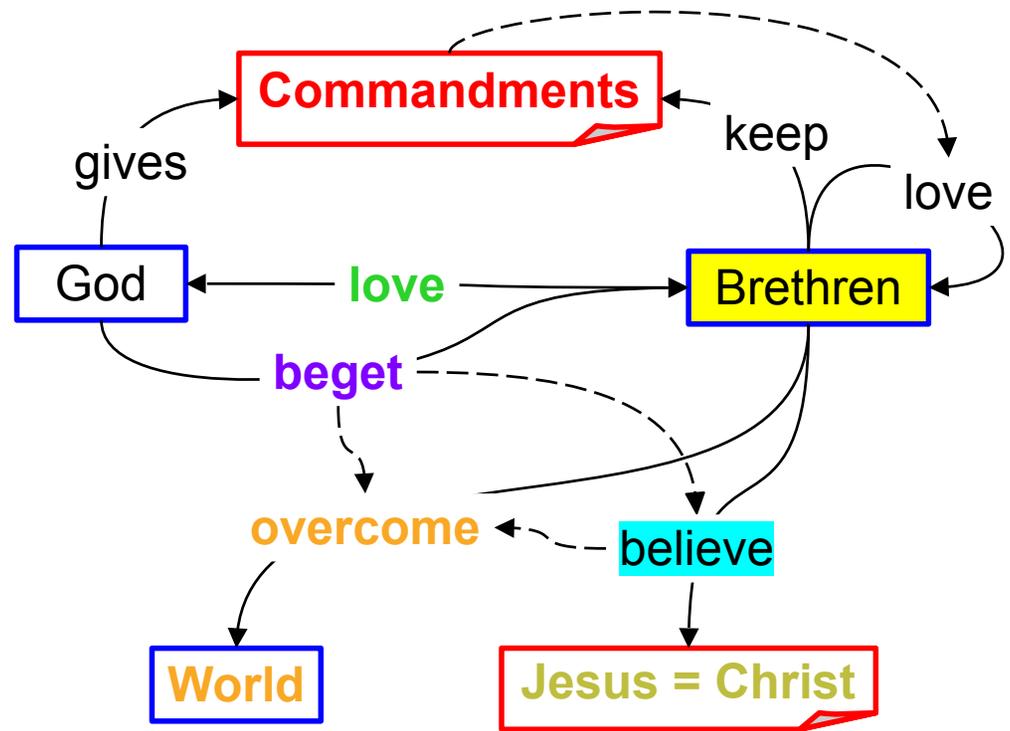
### 5:13-22, Closing Summary and Exhortation

# The Third Panel of Signs

## Things to Look For

- What might make God’s commandments grievous (5:3)?
- Why are they not grievous?
- Does John expect us to be sinless? Why or why not?
- What is the main role of God in each righteousness section?
- What vocabulary marks all three belief sections?
- What new terms mark the third?
- What do we learn about the character of God in this new vocabulary?
- How did the Lord Jesus come “by water” and “by blood”?
- Why does John emphasize that he came by both, not just one?
- What is the witness of the Spirit?

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



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

# 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

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.

Eph 6:16 Above all, taking the **shield of faith**, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

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:



1 John 2:16

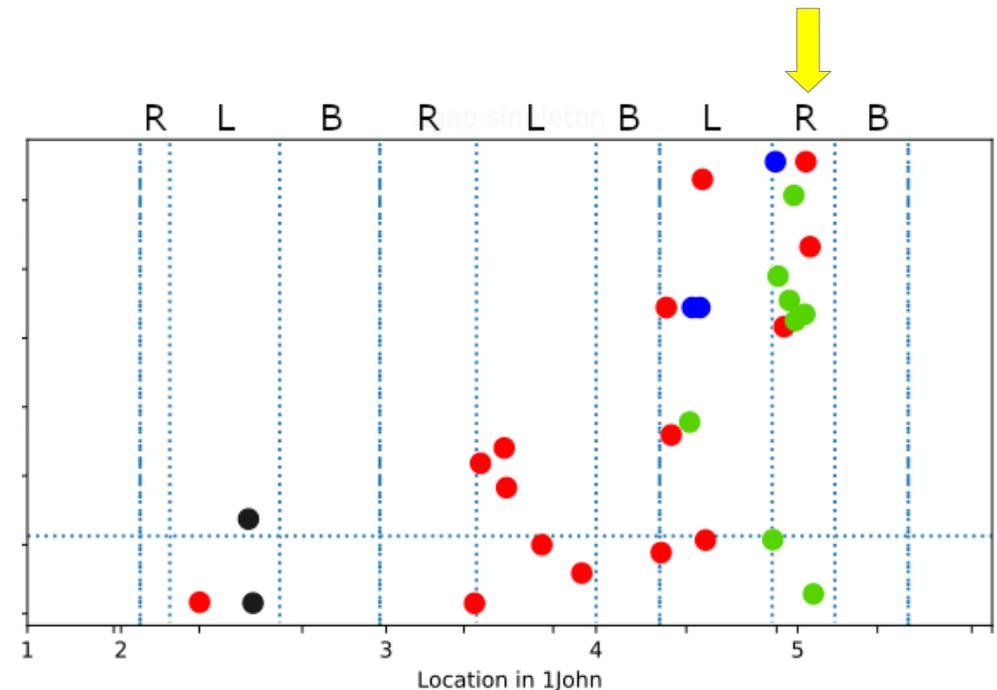
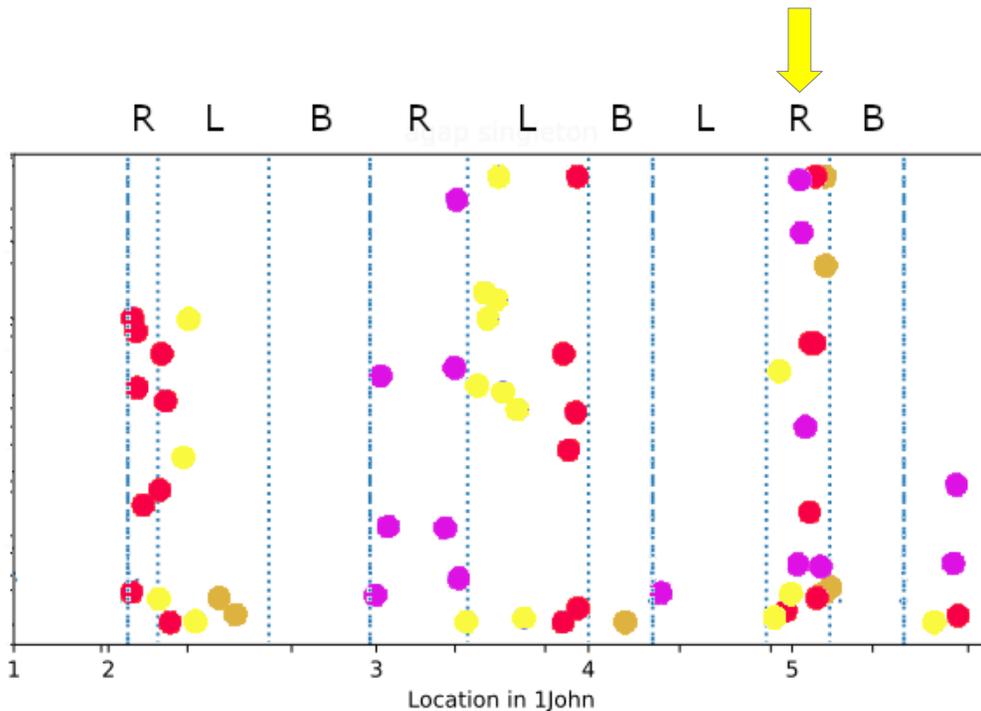
16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

What is the difference between Flesh and Spirit?

8/24/25  
Bilson Peters

# Summary of the Sign of Righteousness

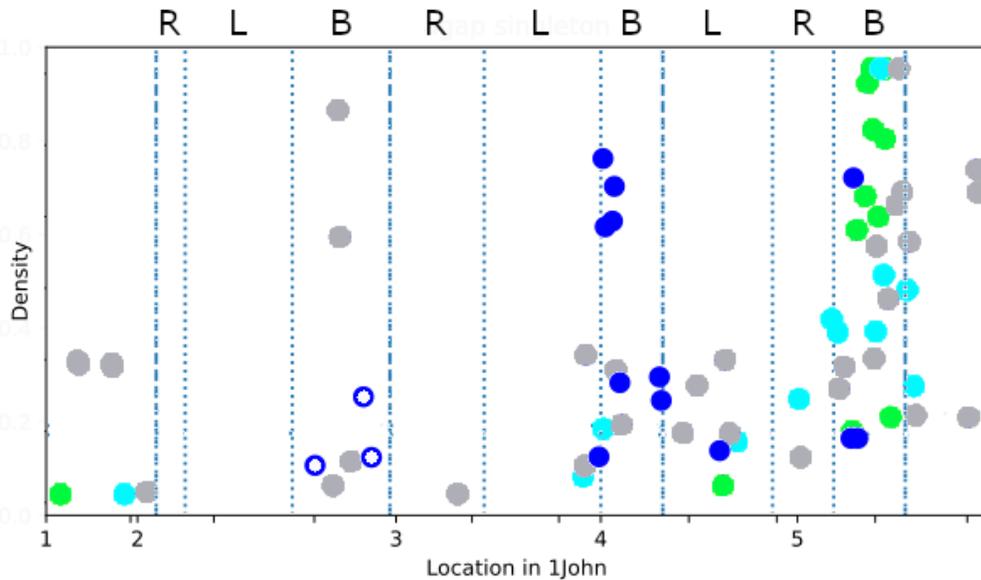
	2:3-6	2:29-3:10	4:19-5:4
Vocabulary	Keep, Commandments	Child, Begotten	+ Love God
God's role	Lawgiver	Father	The Object of our Love



- **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**

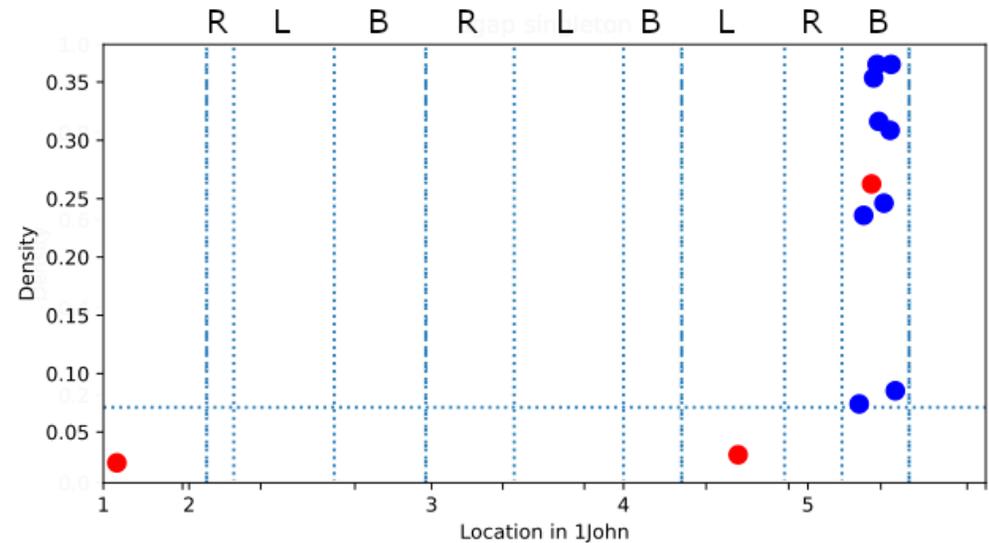
# Vocabulary of the Third Belief Section



**Grey:** son (of God), Christ  
**Light blue:** believe, belief  
**Green:** witness  
**Dark blue:** anoint (hollow), Spirit (solid)

1John 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;)

1Jn 4:14 And we **have seen and do testify** that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.



“Witness” word family (μαρτυρέω *martureō* G3140, μαρτυρία *marturia* G3141) in 1 John.  
**Red:** witness by men.  
**Blue:** witness by God.

Gen 18:17 And the LORD said, **Shall I hide** from Abraham that thing which I do;

Deu 29:29 The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but **those things which are revealed** belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

# The Three Witnesses, 5:6-7: Past

## 6a “This is he that came”

### 6a, Water and Blood (past)

Jhn 1:32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. 33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. 34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

Jhn 19:34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. 35 And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

### 6b, Water and Blood (past, both)

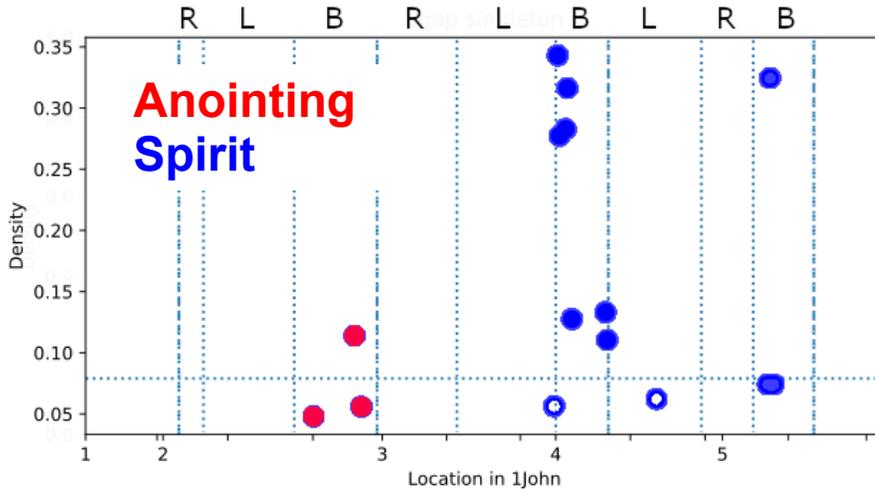
Exo 34:6 ... **The LORD, The LORD God**, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands, **forgiving [bearing] iniquity and transgression and sin, ...**

2Co 5:19 ... **God was in Christ**, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

# The Three Witnesses, 5:6-7: Present

6c “It is the Spirit that **beareth** witness”  
7 “there are three that **bear** record, the Spirit, the Water, and the Blood”

Romans 8



## Role of Spirit in Earlier Belief Sections

1Jn 2:27 But **the anointing** which ye have received of him **abideth** in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as **the same anointing teacheth you** of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

1Jn 4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and **he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.**

Rom 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. 10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. 12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 **The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:** 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.