

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**

5:13-21, Closing Summary

- 13, **Belief**
- 14-17, **Boldness**
- 18-21, **Knowledge**

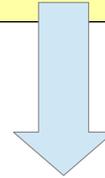
The Third Panel of Signs

Things to Look For

- How does 5:16 fill up the missing information from 1:6-2:2?
- What sign of eternal life does this instruction reflect?
- In what cases can we talk with third parties about a brother’s sin?
- What makes a sin, a “sin unto death”?
- What “sin unto death” is prominent in 1 John?
- What error is John correcting with 5:17 and 3:4?
- What maneuvers do people often make to avoid dealing with their sin? Illustrate these with examples from the Bible.
- How is 5:18-21 organized?

16a, Praying for a Brother's Sin

Ref	False Claim	Our Duty	God's Provision
1:6-7	We have fellowship but walk in darkness	Walk in the light	Blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us
1:8-9	We have no sin	Confess our sins	God is faithful & just to forgive
1:10-2:2	We have not sinned	?	Jesus Christ is our advocate



5:16 If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask αἰτέω, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death.

Dealing with the Sins of Others

	Prayer	Rebuke
Private	<p>1 John 5:16 If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death.</p>	<p>Mat 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.</p>
Public	<p>Jas 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.</p>	<p>Ezk 3:17 Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. 1Co 5:13 But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person. Tit 2:15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee. 2Ti 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 1Ti 5:19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. 20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.</p>



1 John 5:16

16 If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.



Matthew 18:15

15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

10/1/2025
Bilson Peters

“Sin Unto Death”

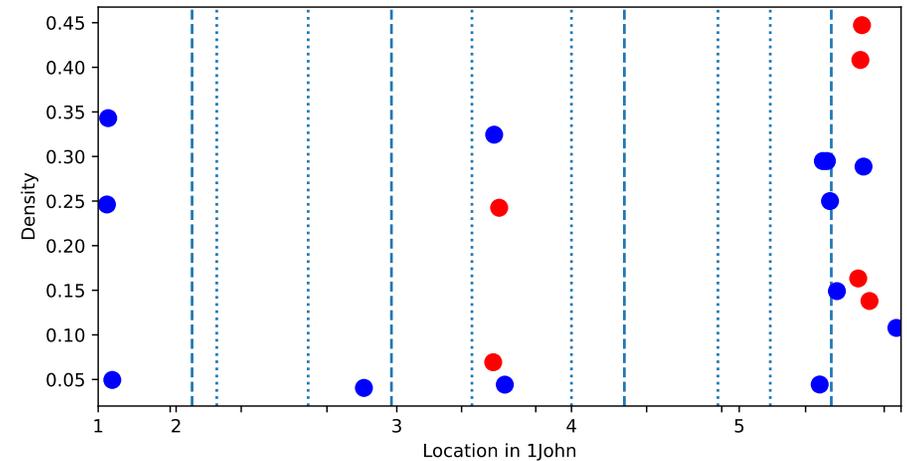
Life and Death in 1 John

1Jn 3:14 We know that we have passed from **death** unto **life**, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in **death**.

Unforgiveable Sins

Mat 12:22 Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. 23 And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David? 24 But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, **This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub** the prince of the devils. ... 31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but **the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.**

Life (**blue**) and Death (**red**) in 1 John



Unrighteousness, Sin, Lawlessness

1 John 5:17 All unrighteousness (*ἀδικία adikia* G93) is sin (*ἁμαρτία hamartia* G266)

1John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin (*hamartia*) transgresseth also the law (*ἀνομία anomia* G458): for sin is the transgression of the law.

Evasive Maneuvers of a Guilty Conscience

Man-made Exemptions

Mat 15:1 Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, 2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. 3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? 4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. 5 But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; 6 And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

Ranking Sins (e.g., Mortal vs. Venial)

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. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

The Verdict

Ezek 18:20 The soul that sinneth, it shall die
Rom 6:23 The wages of sin is death

The Real Solution

1John 1:9 If we confess our sins *hamartia*, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness *adikia*.

1 John 5:18-21, Three Things we Know

	The believer	The Lord	The World
<i>We know oida G1492 ...</i>			
18	Whosoever is born of God	Sinneth not
	... him	He that is begotten of God keepeth ...	that wicked one toucheth him not
<i>We know oida G1492 ...</i>			
19	We are of God	The whole world lieth in wickedness
<i>We know oida G1492 ...</i>			
20-21		The Son of God is come	Little children, keep yourselves from idols
	<i>We know ginōskō G1097 ...</i>	... him that is true	
	We are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ	
		This is the true God, and eternal life	