

## 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**

# Closing Summary

## Things to Look For

- How does John mark the structure of 5:18-21?
- What three characters interact in each section of 5:18-21?
- Do 5:18 and 3:6-9 mean that true believers never sin? Why or why not?
- How do the 10 Commandments illustrate John’s usage in 5:18?
- What two things indicate that “he that is begotten of God” in 5:18b refers to the Lord Jesus?
- What does the Lord’s keeping of himself have to do with us?
- What Old Testament example illustrates our Lord’s protection of us?

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

	The believer	The Lord	The World
--	--------------	----------	-----------

We know *oida* G1492 ... : Generic Statement of *Origin*

18	Whosoever ...	... is born <b>of God</b>	Sinneth not
	... him(self)	He that is begotten <b>of God</b> keepeth ...	that wicked one toucheth him not

We know *oida* G1492 ... : Personal *Condition* as a result

19	We ...	... are <b>of God</b>	The whole world lieth in <b>wickedness</b> the wicked one
----	--------	-----------------------	---

We know *oida* G1492 ... : Practical *Application* (Imperative)

20-21		The Son of God is come ...	21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols
	... us	... and hath given ... an understanding	
	We ...	... know <i>ginōskō</i> G1097 him that is true	
	We ...	... are <b>in</b> him that is true,	
		... even in his Son Jesus Christ	
		This is the true God, and eternal life	

# 5:18a Sinless Perfection?

5:4 **whatsoever** is born of God overcometh the world

→ 5:18 **whosoever** is born of God sinneth not

→ 5:19 **we** are of God

## Sinneth not?

1Jn 3:6 Whosoever abideth in him **sinneth not**: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. ... 8 He that committeth sin **is 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.

## But ...

1Jn 1:8 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.

1Jn 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.

**10 Commandments:**  
**“Thou shalt not” != “Do not”**

Exo 20:13 **Thou shalt not** kill.

14 **Thou shalt not** commit adultery.

15 **Thou shalt not** steal.

16 **Thou shalt not** bear false witness against thy neighbour.

17 **Thou shalt not** covet thy neighbour's house,

**thou shalt not** covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his

maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

“Thou shalt not” = simple future, “you (singular) will not.”

# 5:18b Who keeps whom? Verb “keep”

## Verb “keep” (τηρέω *tēreō* G5083)

### **Believers keep God’s word:**

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

John 14:15 If ye love me, **keep *tēreō* my commandments.**

### **God keeps the believers:**

John 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. **Holy Father, keep** through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

John 17:12 While I was with them in the world, **I kept them** in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept φυλάσσω, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

John 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that **thou shouldst keep them** from the evil.

Rev. 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also **will keep thee** from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

### **Believers keep themselves:** **φυλάσσω *fulassō* G5442**

1John 5:21 Little children, **keep *fulassō* yourselves** from idols. Amen.

John 12:25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall **keep *fulassō* it** unto life eternal.

# 5:18b Who keeps whom?

Tense of “begotten” γεννάω *gennaō* G1080

**Believers: Perfect Tense**

1John 5:18a We know that whosoever **is born of God** [has been born of God] sinneth not

Also 2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:1, 4

**5:18b: Aorist Tense (participle): timeless  
Keepeth Himself?**

1Co 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. ... 27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

Eph 1:22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Col 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

**That wicked one toucheth him  
not**

Psa 105:14 He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproveth kings for their sakes; 15 Saying, **Touch not mine anointed [ones]**, and do my prophets no harm.

1Sa 22:20 And one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped, and fled after David. 21 And Abiathar shewed David that Saul had slain the LORD'S priests. 22 And David said unto Abiathar, I knew it that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul: I have occasioned the death of all the persons of thy father's house. 23 Abide thou with me, fear not: for **he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou shalt be in safeguard.**

# 5:19 from Whosoever, to We

## We are of God ...

1John 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.

## Wickedness = the Wicked One

1 John 2:13 ... I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome **the wicked one**. ... 14 ... I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome **the wicked one**.

1 John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of 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**. ... 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. ... 12 Not as Cain, who was of **that wicked one**, and slew his brother.

1John 5:18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and **that wicked one** toucheth him not.

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**.

## ... and the whole world lieth in wickedness the Wicked One

Luk 4:6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

Col 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: