

Closing Summary

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**

Things to Look For

- What might be a better translation of the word rendered “wickedness” in 5:19?
- What is the significance of the shift from “of” to “in” at 5:19?
- What passage in John’s gospel forms the main source for 5:20?
- Why did the Lord Jesus come into the world, according to 5:20?
- In whom are we to abide, according to John 15? according to 1 John?
- Where do we first see the extension of abiding from the Son to include the Father?
- What is the difference in meaning between the two Greek words for “true,” and which one is used in 5:20?
- Who is the antecedent of “this [is the true God]”?
- How does the idolatry in 5:21 reflect the motivating problem in the church to whom John writes?

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 of God	Sinneth not
	... him(self)	He that is begotten of God keepeth ...	that wicked one toucheth him not

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

19	We are of God	The whole world lieth in wickedness 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 in him that is true,	
		... even in his Son Jesus Christ	
		This is the true God, and eternal life	

All three reinforce 5:13, “that ye may know *oida* that ye have eternal life”
 Note shift from “**of**” to “**in**” in v. 19

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:

John 8:44 "Ye are of your father the devil.

1 John 5:20 as Meditation on John 17

John 17	1 John 5:20
1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:	a) And we know that the Son of God is come, f) even in his Son Jesus Christ.
2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. 3 And this is life eternal,	h) and eternal life.
that they might know thee	c) that we may know him
the only true God,	d) that is true, g) This is the true God,
and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.	a) And we know that the Son of God is come,
4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.	b) and hath given us an understanding,
21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.	e) and we are in him that is true, f) even in his Son Jesus Christ

Helpful References on 5:20

The Son of God is come

John 17:1 Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee;

John 17:3 ... Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Jhn 1:34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

Jhn 1:49 Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

... and hath given us an understanding ...

John 17:4 I have glorified thee on the earth:

Pro 28:12 When righteous men do rejoice, there is great glory: but when the wicked rise, a man is hidden.

Jhn 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

... that we may know him ...

Know *ginōskō* G1097: to know by experience

Jhn 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know γινώσκω thee ...

Jhn 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

Helpful References on 5:20 (cont.)

... that is true (ἀληθινός *alēthinos* G228, genuine, vs. ἀληθής *alēthēs* G227, not deceitful) ...

Alēthēs: Rom 3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; ...

Alēthinos: 1 Thes 1:9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

... and we are in him ...

1 John 2:24 Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue [μένω “abide”] **in the Son, and in the Father.**

1Jn 4:15 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.

John 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be **one in us:** that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

This (masculine singular) is the true God

Jhn 10:30 I and my Father are one.

... and eternal life.

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

1 John 5:20

20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Why does Jesus Christ give us this understanding in verse twenty?

