

Background to the Book

John's Experience

1Jn 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. 19 **They went out from us, but they were not of us**; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

Belief without Salvation

Luk 8:13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which **for a while believe**, and in time of temptation **fall away**.

Jas 2:14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? **can [the] faith (that kind of faith) save him?** ... 17 Even so **faith, if it hath not works, is dead**, being alone. 19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. 20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that **faith without works is dead?**

John's Purpose

1Jn 5:13 These things have I written unto you **that believe** on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

A Helpful Reference

Robert Law, *The Tests of Life*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1909.

https://biblicalelearning.org/New_Testament_Greek/Text/Law-TestsOfLife/Law-TestsOfLife.pdf

<https://a.co/d/hPKfVEo>

Parallels between John and 1 John

	Gospel of John	1 John
Subject	<p>Jhn 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.</p>	<p>1Jn 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; 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;) 3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you,</p>
Purpose	<p>Jhn 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.</p>	<p>1Jn 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.</p>

Tests of Life: **Righteousness**, **Love**, **Belief**

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

2:29 **ye know** that every one that **doeth righteousness** is born of him.

3:14 **We know** that we have passed from death unto life, because we **love the brethren**.

3:18 My little children, let us not **love** in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. 19 And **hereby we know** that we are of the truth, and shall **assure our hearts** before him.

4:13 Hereby **know we** that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. ... 15 Whosoever shall confess that **Jesus is the Son of God**, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

5:1 Whosoever believeth that **Jesus is the Christ** is born of God:

	Righteousness	Love	Belief
2:3-28	2:3-6	2:7-17	2:18-28
2:29-4:6	2:29-3:10a	3:10b-24a	3:24b-4:6
4:7-5:12	4:7-5:1 Love and Belief; 5:2-5 Love, Righteousness, and Belief 5:6-12, Witnesses to Love, Righteousness, and Belief		

1 John 5:1

1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

Who is born of God in verse one?



Bilson Peters, 18 Jan 2025

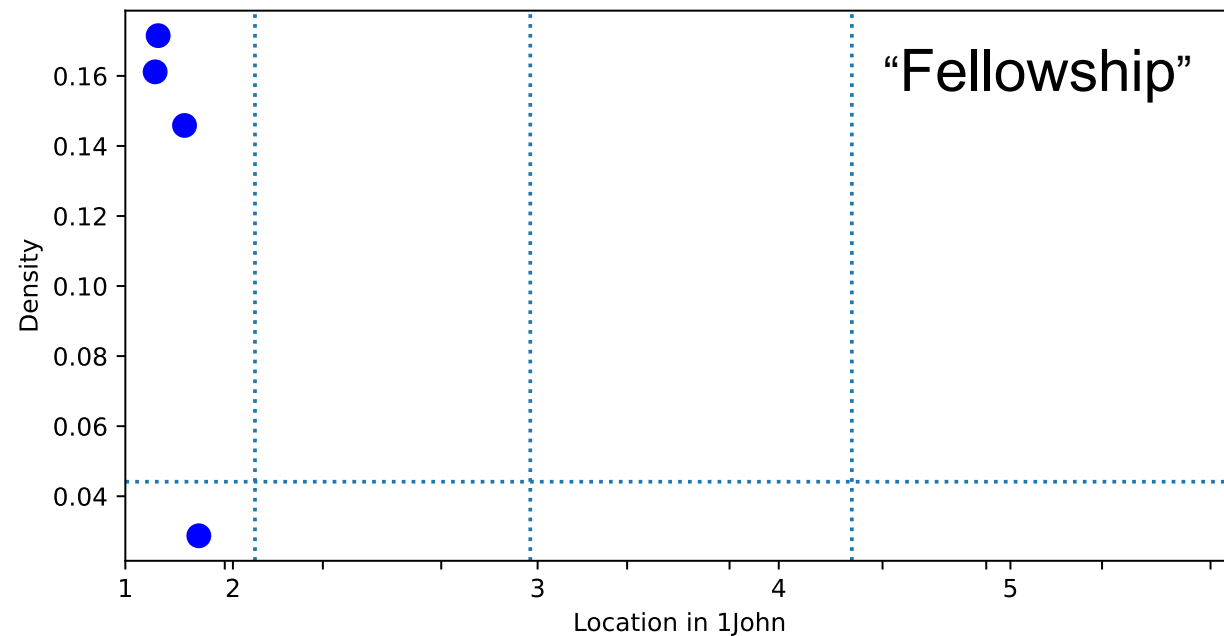
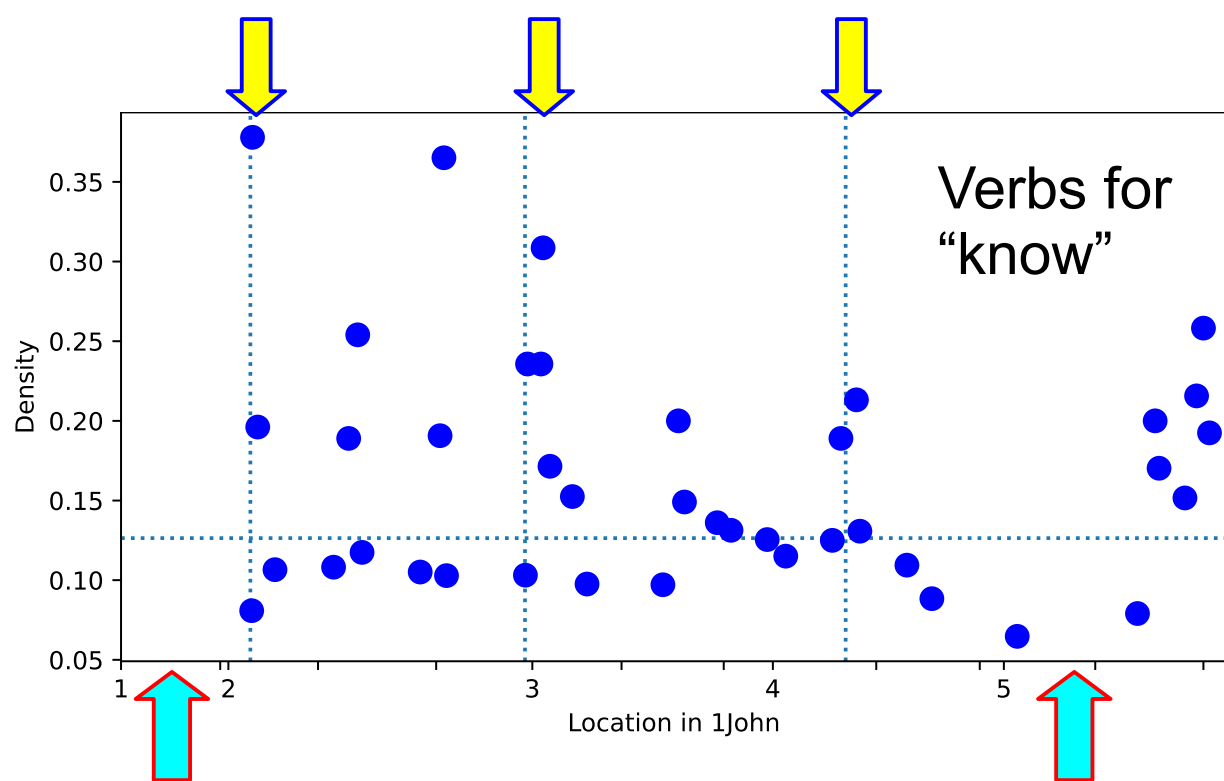
Knowing and Fellowship

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

Purpose in the Fellowship Section

1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, **that ye also may have fellowship** with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things write we unto you, **that your joy may be full.**

2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, **that ye sin not. ...**



A Preliminary Outline

1 John: The Tests 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 Cycle

- :3-6, Righteousness
- :7-17, Love
- :18-28, Belief

2:29-4:6, Second Cycle

- 2:29-3:10a, Righteousness
- 3:10b-24a, Love
- 3:24b-4:6, Belief

4:7-5:12, Third Cycle

- 4:7-5:1, Love and Belief
- 5:2-5, Love, Righteousness, and Belief
- 5:6-12, Witnesses to Love, Righteousness, and Belief

5:13-22, Closing Summary and Exhortation

Spiritual Perspective

Rom. 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but **after the Spirit**.

Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. 30 And **grieve not the holy Spirit of God**, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Chronological Perspective

1Co 3:1 And I, **brethren**, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto **babes in Christ**. 2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. 3 For **ye are yet carnal**: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, **are ye not carnal, and walk as men?** 4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

How to Use the Tests

Social Perspective

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. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

Gal 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, **restore such an one** in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

1Co 11:27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man **examine himself**, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not **discerning the Lord's body**.