

# The First Epistle General of John

## The Argument

After that S. John had sufficiently declared, how that our whole salvation doeth consist only in Christ, lest that any man should thereby take a boldness to sin, he sheweth that no man can believe in Christ, unless he doeth endeavor himself to keep his commandments, which thing being done, he exhorteth them to beware of false prophets, whom he calleth Antichrists, and to try the spirits. Last of all he doeth earnestly exhort them unto brotherly love, and to beware of deceivers.

### Chapter 1

2 True witness of the everlasting word of God. 7 The blood of Christ is the purgation of sin. 10 No man is without sin.

That which was <sup>a</sup>from the beginning, which we have <sup>b</sup>heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled of the Word of <sup>c</sup>life.

2 (For the life appeared, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you the eternal life, which was <sup>d</sup>with the Father, and appeared unto us)

3 That, / say, which we have seen and heard, declared we unto you, that ye may also <sup>e</sup>have fellowship with us, and that our fellowship also may be with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God <sup>\*</sup>is <sup>f</sup>light, and in him is no darkness.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in <sup>g</sup>darkness, we lie, and do not truly.

7 But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship <sup>h</sup>one with another, and the <sup>\*</sup>blood of Jesus Christ his Son clenseth us from all sin.

8 <sup>\*</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and truth is not in us.

9 If we <sup>i</sup>acknowledge our sins, he is faithful & just, to forgive us our sins, & to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his <sup>^</sup>word is not in us.

### Chapter 2

1 Christ is our Advocate, 10 Of true love, and how it is tried. 18 To beware of Antichrist.

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1 a That is, Christ God eternal.

1 b That is, Christ being man.

1 c Which gives life and had it in himself, John 14.6.

2 d Before all beginning.

3 e The effect of the Gospel is, that we all being joined together in Christ by faith, should be the sons of God.

5 <sup>\*</sup>John 8.12

5 f The fruits of our faith must declare whether we be joined in God or no: for God being the very purity and light will not have fellowship with them which lie in sin and darkness.

6 g In an evil conscience, and without the fear of God.

7 h That is, Christ with us and we with ourselves.

7 <sup>\*</sup>Ebr. 9.14, 1 Pet. 1.19, Rev. 1.5.

8 <sup>\*</sup>1 Kings 8.46, 2 Chron. 6.36, Pro. 20.9, Ecc. 7.22

9 i If we be not ashamed, earnestly and openly to acknowledge our selves before God to be sinners.

10 <sup>^</sup>Or, doctrine.

My babes, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not: And if any man sin, we have an <sup>a</sup>Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the Just.

2 And he is the reconciliation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins* of <sup>b</sup>the whole world.

3 And hereby we are sure that we <sup>c</sup>know him, if we keep his commandments.

4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But he that keepeth his word, in him is <sup>d</sup>the love of God perfect in deed: hereby we know that we are in him.

6 He that saith he remaineth in him, ought even so to walk, as he hath walked.

7 Brethren, I write no new <sup>^</sup>commandment unto you: but an old commandment, which ye have had from the <sup>e</sup>beginning: the <sup>f</sup>old commandment is the word, which ye have heard from the beginning.

8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, that which is true in him, and also in you: for the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

9 He that saith that he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness until this time.

10 <sup>\*</sup>He that loveth his brother, abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of evil in him.

11 But he that hateth his brother, is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

12 <sup>g</sup>Little children, I write unto you, because your sins are forgiven you for <sup>h</sup>his Name's sake.

13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the <sup>^</sup>wicked.

14 I write unto you, babes, because ye have known the Father. I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him, that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the <sup>^</sup>wicked.

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1 a Christ is our only Advocate and atonement: for the office of intercession and redemption are joined together.

2 b That is, of them which have embraced the Gospel by faith in all ages, degrees, and places: for there is no salvation without Christ.

3 c That is, by faith and so obey him for knowledge can not be without obedience.

5 d Whereby he loves God: so that to love God is to obey his word.

7 <sup>^</sup>Or, doctrine.

7 e When the Law was given.

7 f Love thy neighbor as thy self, is the old commandment taught in the Law: but when Christ says, So love one another as I have loved you, he gives a new commandment only as touching the form, but not as touching the nature or substance of the precept.

10 <sup>\*</sup>Chap. 3.14.

12 g He names all the faithful, children, as he being their spiritual father, attributing to old men knowledge of great things, to young men strength, to children obedience and reverence to their governors.

12 h For Christ's sake.

13 <sup>^</sup>Or, the devil.

14 <sup>^</sup>Or, the devil.

## Chapter 3

15 Love not the <sup>i</sup>world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the <sup>\*</sup>world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world (as the lust of the <sup>k</sup>flesh, the <sup>l</sup>lust of the eyes, and the <sup>m</sup>pride of life) is not of the Father, but is of the world.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that fulfilleth the will of God, abideth ever.

18 Babes, 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 <sup>n</sup>They went out from us, but they were not of us: for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But *this cometh to pass*, that it might appear, that they are not all of us.

20 But ye have an <sup>o</sup>ointment from him, that is <sup>p</sup>Holie, and ye have known all things.

21 I <sup>q</sup>have not written unto you, because ye know not the truth: but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

22 Who is a liar, but he that denieth that Jesus is <sup>r</sup>Christ? the same is the Antichrist that denieth the Father and the Son.

23 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same <sup>s</sup>hath not the Father<sup>||</sup>.

24 Let therefore abide in you that same which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning, shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.

25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, *even* eternal life.

26 These things have I written unto you, concerning them that deceive you.

27 But the anointing which ye received of him, dwelleth in you: and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same <sup>t</sup>Anointing teacheth you of all things, and it is true, and is not lying, and as it taught you, ye shall abide <sup>u</sup>in him.

28 And now, <sup>v</sup>little children, abide in him, that when he shall appear, we may be bold, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

29 If ye know that he is righteous, know ye that he which doeth righteously, is born of him.

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15 i As it is adversary to God.

15 \*Jam. 4.4.

16 k To live in pleasure.

16 l Wantonness.

16 m Ambition and pride.

19 n Which seemed to have been of our number, because for a time they occupied a place in the Church.

20 o The grace of the holie Ghost.

20 p Which is Christ.

21 q In this Epistle which I now write unto you,

22 r He that takes away or diminishes either of the natures in Christ, or he that confounds or separates them, else he that puts not difference between the person of the Son, & also he that believes not to have remission of sins by his only sacrifice, denies Christ to be the true Messias.

23 s Then the infidels worship not the true God.

23 || *But he that confesses the Son, has also the Father.*

27 t Christ communicates himself unto you and teaches you by the holie Ghost and his ministers.

27 ^Or, in Christ.

28 u By this name he means the whole Church of Christ in general.

*1 The singular love of God toward us, 7 And how we again ought to love one another.*

**B**ehold, what love the Father hath shewed on us, that we should be <sup>a</sup>called the sons of God: for this cause the world knoweth you not, because it knoweth not him.

2 Dearly beloved, now are we the sons of God, but yet it doeth not appear what we shalbe: and we know that when <sup>b</sup>he shall appear, we shalbe <sup>c</sup>like him: for we shall see him as he is.

3 And every man that hath this hope in him, purgeth himself, even as he is pure.

4 Whosoever <sup>d</sup>committeth sin, transgresseth also the Law: for sin is the transgression of the Law.

5 And ye know that he appeared that he might <sup>e</sup>take away our sins, and in him is no sin.

6 Whosoever abideth in him, sinneth not: whosoever sinneth, hath not seen him, neither hath known him.

7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness, is righteous, as he is righteous.

8 He that <sup>f</sup>committeth sin, is of the devil: for the devil sinneth from the <sup>g</sup>beginning: for this purpose appeared the Son of God, that he might loose the works of the devil.

9 Whosoever is born of God, sinneth not: for his <sup>h</sup>seed remaineth in him, neither can he <sup>i</sup>sin, because he is born of God.

10 In this are the children of God known, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness, is not of God, neither he that <sup>j</sup>loveth not his brother.

11 For this is the message, that ye heard from the beginning, that <sup>k</sup>we should love one another,

12 Not as <sup>l</sup>Cain which was of the wicked, and slew his brother: and wherefore slew he him? because his own works were evil, and his brother's good.

13 Marvel not, my brethren, though the world hate you.

14 We know that we are translated from death unto life, because we <sup>m</sup>love the brethren: <sup>n</sup>he that loveth not *his* brother, abideth in death.

15 Whosoever hateth his brother, is a manslayer: and ye know that no manslayer hath eternal life abiding in him.

16 <sup>o</sup>Hereby have we perceived love, that he laid down his life for us: therefore we ought also to lay down *our* lives for

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1 a Being made the sons of God in Christ, he shows what qualities we must have to be discerned from bastards.

2 b That is, Christ.

2 c As the members and head are which make one perfect body.

4 d That is, in whom sin doeth reign, so that he seeks not to be sanctified.

5 \*Isa. 55.7, 1 Pet. 2.22.

8 \*John 8.44.

8 e As appeared by Adam.

9 f Which is the holie Ghost.

9 g He can not be under the power of sin because the Spirit of God corrects his evil and corrupt affections.

10 h He descends from the first table of the commandments to the second.

11 \*John 13.34, and 15.12.

12 \*Gen. 4.8.

14 i This love is the special fruit of our faith and a certain sign of our regeneration.

14 \*Chap. 2.10, Lev. 19.17.

16 \*John 15.13, Eph. 5.2.

the brethren.

17 \*And whosoever hath this world's good and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue *only*, but in <sup>k</sup>deed and in truth.

19 For thereby we know that we are of the truth and shall before him assure our hearts.

20 For if our <sup>h</sup>heart condemn us, God is greater then our heart, and knoweth all things.

21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we boldness toward God.

22 \*And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things which are pleasing in his sight.

23 \*This is then his commandment, That we believe in the Name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave commandment.

24 \*For he that keepeth his commandments, dwelleth in him, and he in him: and hereby we know that he abideth in us, *even* by the Spirit which he hath given us.

#### Chapter 4

*1 Difference of spirits. 2 How the Spirit of God may be known from the spirit of error. 7 Of the love of God and of our neighbors.*

**D**earely beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the <sup>a</sup>spirits whether they are of God: for many false Prophets are gone out into the world.

2 Hereby shall ye know the Spirit of God, Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus <sup>b</sup>Christ is come in the flesh, is of God.

3 And every spirit which confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, is not of God: but this is the *spirit* of Antichrist, of whom ye have heard, how that he should come and <sup>c</sup>now already he is in the world.

4 Little children, ye are of God, and have overcome them: for greater is he that is in you, then <sup>d</sup>he that is in the world.

5 They are of the world, therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.

6 We are of God, <sup>e</sup>he that knoweth God, <sup>e</sup>heareth us: he that is not of God, heareth us not. Hereby know we the Spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

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17 \*Luke 3.11

18 <sup>k</sup> Which is not the cause, wherefore we are the sons of God, but a most certain sign.

20 <sup>l</sup> If our conscience being guilty of any thing, be able to condemn us, much more the judgement of God which knows our hearts better then we our selves, is able to condemn us.

22 \*Mat. 21.22, John 15.7 and 6.23.

23 \*Mat. 5.24, John 6.29, 17.3 and 13.34.

24 \*John 15.10

#### Chapter 4

1 <sup>a</sup> Them which boast that they have the Spirit to preach or prophecy.

2 <sup>b</sup> Who being very God came from his Father and took upon him our flesh. He that confesses or preaches this truly, hath the Spirit of God, else not.

3 <sup>c</sup> He began to build the mystery of iniquity.

4 <sup>d</sup> Satan the prince of the world.

6 \*John 8.47

6 <sup>e</sup> With pure affection and obedience.

7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love cometh of God, and every one that loveth, is born of God, & knoweth God.

8 He that loveth not, knoweth not God: for God is love.

9 \*In <sup>f</sup>this appeared the love of God toward us, because God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his son *to be* a <sup>g</sup>reconciliation for our sins.

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

12 \*No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfect in us.

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

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

15 Whosoever <sup>h</sup>confesseth that Jesus is the Son of God, in him dwelleth God, and he in God.

16 And we have known, and believe the love that God hath <sup>h</sup>in us. God is love, and he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him.

17 Herein is the love perfect in us, that we should have boldness in the day of judgement: for as he is, even so are we in this world.

18 There is no <sup>k</sup>fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear: for fear hath painfulness: and he that feareth, is not perfect in love.

19 We love him, because he loved us first.

20 If any man say, I love God, and hate his brother, he is a liar: for <sup>h</sup>how can he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, love God whom he hath not seen?

21 \*And this commandment have we of him, that he which loveth God, should love his brother also.

#### Chapter 5

*1.10.13 Of the fruits of faith. 14.20 The office, authority, and divinity of Christ. 21 Against images.*

**W**hosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ, is <sup>a</sup>born of God, and every one that loveth him, which begate, loveth him also which is begotten of him.

2 In this we know that we love the children of God, when we love <sup>b</sup>God, and keep his commandments.

3 For this is the love of God that we keep his commandments: and his <sup>c</sup>commandments are not <sup>e</sup>grievous.

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9 \*John 3.16

9 <sup>f</sup> Truth it is, that God has declared his love in many other things, but herein has passed all other.

10 <sup>g</sup> By his only death.

12 \*John 1.18, 1 Tim. 6.16.

15 <sup>h</sup> So that his confession proceeds of faith.

16 <sup>h</sup> Or, toward us.

16 <sup>i</sup> By inspiring it into us.

18 <sup>k</sup> Such as should trouble the conscience.

20 <sup>l</sup> For God presents himself to us in them, which bear his image.

21 \*John 13.34 and 15.12.

#### Chapter 5

1 <sup>a</sup> Is regenerate by the virtue of his Spirit.

2 <sup>b</sup> The love of God must go before, or else we can not love aright.

3 \*Mat. 11.30

3 <sup>c</sup> They are easy to the sons of God, which are led with his Spirit: for they delight therein.

4 For all that is born of God, overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

5 \*Who is it that overcometh the world, but he which believeth that Jesus is the Son of God.

6 This is that Jesus Christ that came by <sup>d</sup>water <sup>e</sup>and blood, not by water only, but by water and blood: and it is the <sup>f</sup>spirit, that beareth witness: for the Spirit is <sup>g</sup>truth.

7 For there are three, which bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, & the holie Ghost: & these three are one.

8 And there are three, which bear record in the earth, the spirit and the water and the blood: and these three agree in one.

9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God, which he testified of his Son.

10 \*He that believeth in the Son of God, hath the witness || in himself: he that believeth not God, hath made him a liar, because he believed not the record, that God witnessed of his Son.

11 And this is the record, that God hath given unto us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 He that hath the Son, hath life: and he that hath not the Son of God, hath not life.

13 These things have I written unto you, that believe in the Name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe in the Name of the Son of God.

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5 \*1 Cor. 15.57.

6 d That is, regeneration.

6 e The water and blood that came out of his side, declare that we have our sins washed by him, and he has made full satisfaction for the same.

6 f Our mind inspired by the holie Ghost.

6 g Which testifies to our hearts, that we be the children of God.

10 \*John 3.36.

10 || of God.

14 And this is the assurance, that we have in him, \*that if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us.

15 And if we know that he heareth us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have desired of him.

16 If any man see his brother sin a sin, that is not unto death, let him ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not <sup>h</sup>unto death. \*There is a sin <sup>l</sup>unto death: I say not that thou shuldest pray for it.

17 All unrighteousness is sin, but there is a sin not unto death.

18 We know that whosoever is born of God, <sup>k</sup>sinneth not: but he that is begotten of God, <sup>l</sup>keepeth himself, and the <sup>m</sup>wicked <sup>n</sup>touch him not.

19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world <sup>o</sup>lyeth in wickedness.

20 But we know that the Son of God is \*come, and hath given us a mind to know him, which is true: and we are in him that is true, *that is*, in his Son Jesus Christ: this same is very <sup>p</sup>God, and eternal life.

21 Babes, keep yourselves from <sup>q</sup>idols, Amen.

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14 \*Mat. 7.7 and 21.22, chap. 3.22.

16 h Although every sin be to death, yet God through his mercy pardons his in his Son Christ.

16 \*Mat. 12.31, Mar. 3.29, Luk. 12.10.

16 i As theirs is whom God does so forsake that they fall into utter despair.

18 k Gives not himself so over to sin, that he forgets God.

18 l Takes heed that he sin not.

18 m That is, Satan.

18 n With a mortal wound.

19 o That is, all men generally, as of themselves lie as it were buried in evil.

20 \*Luk. 24.45.

20 p Christ very God.

21 p Meaning from every form and fashion of thing which is set up for any devotion to worship God.