

First John
Spring 2026
Dr. Matthew Johnson
Week 4

Paragraph titles:

What did you name them?

“And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, to know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.” (1 John 5:20 RSV)

3:1-3 - Pure

- How does the text tell us that we become children of God?
- Hope leads to sanctification. What are we hoping in?
- What is it about Jesus that the world did not know? And why would that mean that the world doesn't know us?

3:4-10 - Practice

- v. 6 - Literally it is “Everyone who abides in him does not sin.”
- Born again leads to what?
- Contrast between sin and righteousness, God and the devil. Whose side are we on?

3:11-15 - Murder

- FOR is an important word here. It's saying that because we are born of God and do not practice sin, we should love one another which is the commandment we've been given, first by Jesus in John 13, and then again in chapter 2 of 1 John.
- He draws back to the last paragraph to link Cain and his murderous act to what happens when we're not born by the Spirit.
- Why should we not be surprised when the world (2:17-18) hates us?

3:16-18 - Deed

- In contrast to Cain and Abel, instead of taking a life, we lay our lives down.
- What does that look like?
- Talk v. action. Information v. obedience.

3:19-24 - Keeps

- What does it mean for our heart to condemn us?

Homework:

- Read 1 John 4.
- Name each paragraph.
- As you read, make notes of what stand out to you.
- Be ready to discuss Chapter 4 next week

Notes: