

# 1 John Chapter 5: Overcoming the Cosmos

Remember to lift Up the Lord Jesus Christ

## 1 John Chapter 4 Review: Discerning Spirits and Vital Love

- Discerning the Spirits of False Religion Jesus is LORD
- Vital Importance of Love with regard to Salvation, Confidence, and Glorifying God
- Danger of False Love: People Pleasing
- Jesus Application of True Love: Loving in Deed and Truth

## 1 John Chapter 5

### I. Victory over the Cosmos; i.e. the satanic world system

<sup>1</sup> Whoever **believes** that **Jesus is the Christ is born of God**, and whoever **loves** the Father **loves the child born of Him**.

- **Tests: Faith** [vv.1,4,5], **Love** [vv.1,2,3] and **Obedience** [vv. 2,3]
- **Test of being Born of God**; i.e. Born-again: **Believing that Jesus is the Christ**
  1. Who He is/What He did
  2. Person/Work
  3. Deity/Atonement
- **Test of Loving the Father**: We love "...the child born of Him"; i.e. fellow believers

<sup>2</sup> By this **we know that we love the children of God, when we love God** and **observe His commandments**.

- **Test of love: Obedience**; doing what God commands:

**John 14:15** "If you love Me, **you will** keep My commandments... **24** "He who does not love Me does not keep My words

- **Two commandments** interwoven/**combined into one command**:

**Luke 10:25** And a lawyer stood up and put Him [Jesus] to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" 27And he answered, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND **YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF**." 28And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; **DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE**."

[Followed by parable of the Good Samaritan and Jesus question "Who was the neighbor?" Answer: "The one who showed mercy" Jesus: "go and do likewise"]

**Galatians 5:14** For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF**." [C.f. James 2:8 and 2 John 1:5]

- **Other NT commandments** under the umbrella of "love one another" e.g. 1 Thessalonians Chapter 5; about 22 other commandments: v, 16 "**rejoice**

evermore" v. 19 "quench not the Spirit" etc.

<sup>3</sup> **For this is the love of God**, that we keep His commandments; and **His commandments are not burdensome**. [lit. *heavy*]

- **God's commands are not burdensome** to believers; **relation** is freedom

**Matthew 11:28** "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. 30 "**For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.**"

**Galatians 5:1** It was **for freedom that Christ set us free**; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

- **Religion** is slavery:

**Matthew 23:4** "They tie up **heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders**, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger..."

- Commands are not burdensome *because* of the benefits of our the **New-Birth**:

**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creature**...

<sup>4</sup> For **whatever is born of God overcomes the world**; and this is the **victory that has overcome the world--our faith**. <sup>5</sup> Who is the one who **overcomes the world**, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

**Revelation 2:7** To him who **overcomes**, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.'...**11** He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.'...**17** To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna

- **Overcomes Cosmos**: Faith and that Jesus is the Son of God; not faith in faith
- We are over-comers in **Two tenses**:
  1. **Past Tense**: Victory that has **overcome the cosmos**: Moment we **believed**
  2. **Present Tense**...Who **overcomes the cosmos?**: Day by day victory

**John 16:33** "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; **I have overcome the world.**"

**SUMMARY; Victory Over the Cosmos: Full circle**: "*Christian believers are God's children, born from above. God's children are loved by all who love God. Those who love God also keep His commandments. They keep His commandments because they overcome the world, and they overcome the world because they are Christian believers born from above.*" [J.R.W. Stott] We overcome the world because we are in Jesus and He overcame the world!

## II. Rock-Solid Testimony by Three Witnesses God's Testimony of His Son

<sup>6</sup>This is the One who came by **water** and **blood**, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the **Spirit who testifies**, because the Spirit is the truth. <sup>7</sup>**For there are three that testify:** <sup>8</sup>the **Spirit** and the **water** and the **blood**; and the three are in **agreement**.

- **Water and Blood:** 4 Views
  1. **Baptism/Death** [Refutation of Cerinthus Gnostics]
  2. **Incarnation** [birth]
  3. **Water/Blood** from Jesus pierced side on the cross [John was an eye-witness]
  4. **Believer's baptism/Lord's Supper**
- **#1 or #s 1-2: i.e. Baptism and Death or Incarnation and Death**
- **Gnostic belief:** The Christ and Jesus were separate; the Christ came upon Jesus at baptism and left before the crucifixion

**John is making the case** that Jesus has always been the Christ and always will be the Christ; there is no definite article in v.6:

*This is the One who came [through] **water** and [through] **blood**...*

- **Jesus was always Deity;** He was Deity *before and through* the incarnation and baptism and that He was Deity *before and through* the crucifixion as confirmed by the witness of the **water, blood and the Spirit**
- **3 Testify;** Water, Blood, and Spirit and they are in **agreement**

**Matthew 3:16** After being baptized [**water**], Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God [**Spirit**] descending as a dove and lighting on Him, 17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, [**Father's testimony of the Son**] in whom I am well-pleased."

**Romans 1:3** ...concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh [**Water; Incarnation**], 4 who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection [**Blood**] from the dead, according to the Spirit [**Spirit**] of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

**Hebrews 9:14** ...how much more will the blood [**Blood**] of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit [**Spirit**] offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience [Witness of the **Spirit** in our hearts] from dead works to serve the living God?

**1 Peter 1:11** ...seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ [**Spirit**] within them [the OT prophets] was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ [**Blood**] and the glories to follow.

- **Three Witnesses:**

**Deuteronomy 17:6** "On the evidence of **two witnesses or three witnesses**, he who is to die shall be put to death; he shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness.

**Matthew 18:16** "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that **BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.**

- **Purpose of these 3 witnesses:** *To present Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world who shed His blood on Calvary and paid the penalty for our sins [JVM]*

<sup>9</sup>If we receive the testimony of men, **the testimony of God is greater**; for the testimony of God is this, that **He has testified concerning His Son.** <sup>10</sup>**The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself**; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the **testimony that God has given concerning His Son.** <sup>11</sup>And the testimony is this, that **God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.**

"God has given us eternal life and that life is in His Son!"

- **Believer's Testimony of the Son** ["...has testimony in himself"] is the same as God's Testimony of the Son : I know that I know

**Romans 8:16** The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God...

<sup>12</sup> He who has the **Son has the life**; he who does **not have** the Son of God does **not have the life.**

- **Unbelief says the God is a liar**...bad choice in light of 3 witness testimony; No Jesus-No Life...**Period**

<sup>13</sup>These things I have **written to you who believe** in the name of the Son of God, **so that you may know** that you have eternal life.

- **John's rational** for writing/repeating/warning/encouraging *believers*:

<i>So that you may <b>know</b> you have eternal life</i>
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<sup>14</sup>This is the **confidence** which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything **according to His will**, He hears us. <sup>15</sup>And if we know that He **hears us** in whatever we ask, we know that we **have the requests** which we have asked from Him.

- **Confidence:** Lit. *Boldness*
  1. He hears us and we **have** [past tense] the requests we asked from Him

**Hebrews 4:16 Therefore** let us draw near with **confidence** to the throne of grace, so that **we may receive** mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

1. Because Jesus is the **Eternal** Son of God
2. Because Jesus never **sinned** but lived the perfect life in our place
3. Because Jesus paid for our sins on the cross; i.e. "**took away** our sins"
4. Because His sacrifice was **accepted** by the Father; i.e. the resurrection
5. Because He is always at the right hand of the Father **interceding** for us

- God hears when we ask "**according to His will...**"

**Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you;** seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

**John 14:13** "Whatever you ask in My name, **that will I do**, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

**Mark 11:24** "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, **believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.**

*Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance. It is laying hold of His willingness* [G. Muller]

**SUMMARY; Rock-Solid Testimony by 3 Witnesses:** God's Testimony of His Son is confirmed by three witnesses; the *water, blood, and the Spirit*. God's testimony of His love, exemplified in the gift of His Son, enables us to be confident in prayer!

## **I John Chapter 5: 16-21/ Keep Yourself from Idols**

### **I John Summary**

- John in his 90s for 5 books
- Pastor Ephesus for 10 years after Patmos: Left love
- **Rational:** Encouragement to Relationship
- Gnostics: Jesus is not God, Higher Knowledge, and Influence in Government; Cults on rise, Persecution high point
- Distinctions between True Believers and Make Believers: Holy Spirit will let Himself be known, Willful Obedience is the mark of a Saint, True just, Love of God

**I. Assurance in Intercession:** Interceding for those in Sin

**II. Confident Assurance of Victory**

**III. False Love:** Danger of People-Pleasing

### **I. Assurance in Intercession**

**1 John 5:16** If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will **ask, and He will give him life** for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. **I do not say that he should pray about that.** 17 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.

- **Context vv16,17:** Cont. theme our access to God
- See **brother** in sin; i.e. first hand information
- "Not unto death" NOTE "brother"; i.e. pardoned sin, he/she is saved/forgiven
- Instruction is to first to PRAY and if against you then to go:

**Matthew 18:15** "...if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup> But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' <sup>17</sup> And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.<sup>18</sup> "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.<sup>19</sup> "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

- If not against you: **Restore**

**Galatians 6:1** Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup> For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

- **Restore:** Hate the sin but love the *brother*

**Jude: 22** ...on some have compassion, making a distinction; <sup>23</sup> but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

**1 Samuel 12:23** "...far be it from me that I should **sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray** for you; but I will instruct you in the good and right way. [ask and He will give him life]

- God will give him life; abundant life [he is a brother/sister] Issue is assurance to our prayers for a sinning believer **to have life** [conviction/restoration]
- Cannot have that same assurance regarding a believer or non-believer in willful sin:

**16b** There is sin leading to death. **I do not say that he should pray about that.** 17 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.

- Do not pray for "life" for someone actively/willingly involved sin that "leads to death"
- Someone: Not sure if they are a believer or not as per actions
- **3 Observations in Scripture of Sins that Lead to Death**

1. Believers sin against God's Holiness leading to physical death
2. Anyone's willful/presumptuous sin "... will not enter sins"
3. Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit: Unbeliever willing rejection of Jesus

**a) Believer's Sin against God's Holiness Leading to Physical Death:** A sin that corrupt the body leading to the sinner's physical death

- **An individual's** sin that would endanger the sanctity of the church *as a whole*
- Uzzah touched the Arc of the Covenant and God protected His Holy Name and those who would be affected/infected by Uzzah's disrespect:

**2 Samuel 6:7** The LORD's anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down and he died there beside the ark of God.

- Misunderstanding warfare in the spiritual realm/ People Pleasing:

**1 Corinthians 5:5** ...deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.<sup>6</sup> Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? <sup>7</sup> Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

- Do not pray, do not comfort, do not gather round but wait until repentance!
- **Body of Christ works together to benefit the whole; not cater to the individual/ cater to sin:**
- **God may choose to take them out...**do not pray for "life" while they are unrepentant; i.e. get out of the way while God disciplines!

**Acts 5:3** ...Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? <sup>4</sup>Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God." <sup>5</sup>When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened.... **14 ...more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.**

**1 Corinthians 11:29** For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. <sup>30</sup>For this reason many among you are weak and sick, **and a number sleep.**

- We are **commanded** to expel unrepentant from the umbrella of the church; protection, comfort...do not even eat with such a one! Killing themselves and others

**1 Corinthians 5:5** [father's wife] I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the **destruction of his flesh**, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

**2 Corinthians 2:7** [read]...forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. 8 Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him. 9 For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, **whether you are obedient in all things.**

- We are **not to pray blessings** [comfort] on a believer that is corrupting [sin that leads to death] the rest of the body

**Leviticus 10:3** ... Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.'" **So Aaron held his peace.**

- 2 OT examples of God's people going too far and his prophets being told "do not pray" do not intercede...get out of the way

**Hosea 4:17** "Ephraim is joined to idols, **Let him alone.** 18 Their drink is rebellion, They commit harlotry continually.

**Jeremiah 7:13** ...now, because you [unrepentant Israel] have done all these works," says the Lord, "and I spoke to you, rising up early and speaking, but you did not hear, and I called you, but you did not answer, <sup>14</sup>therefore I will do to the house which is called by My name, in which you trust, and to this place which I gave to you and your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh. <sup>15</sup>And I will cast you out of My sight, as I have cast out all your brethren—the whole posterity of Ephraim. <sup>16</sup>"**Therefore do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them, nor make intercession to Me; for I will not hear you.**

**SUMMARY: Believer's Sin against God's Holiness leading to Physical Death:** We are commanded to expel unrepentant from the umbrella of the church; protection, comfort...do not even eat with such a one! Killing themselves and others. God may choose to take them out and we need to leave room for God to discipline:

**Romans 12:17** Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place [leave room] to wrath...

**Hebrews 12:6** For whom the **Lord loves He chastens**, And scourges every son whom He receives."

**b) Willful Sin: Believer/Make-Believer [Brother not used]** A sin listed as "will not inherit the Kingdom of Heaven" sins...and those like it. e.g. 10 Commandments etc.

- Assurance in prayer is the context
- The prayer we pray is for LIFE, we can have no assurance of Eternal Life for someone in willful/presumptuous sin



"...in case of the sin unto death in the fore mentioned ways, we have no allowance to pray. Perhaps the apostle's expression, I do not say, He shall pray for it, may intend no more than, "I have no promise for you in that case; no foundation for the prayer of faith."  
**Matthew Henry**

- But if we see a believer or make-believer [brother is not mentioned] in a sin that leads to death, we are to **confront** and **restore if possible**
- **Biggies:** No doubt this is not God's will...

**1 Corinthians 6:9** Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither **fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.** 11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

**Galatians 5:19** Now the deeds of the flesh are **evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing,** and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things **will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

**Ephesians 5:5** For this you know with certainty, that **no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.**

- If godly council is **not accepted** we cannot have full assurance [context of 1 John regarding prayer]
- **NO FEAR OF GOD:** We see self will, self determination, and FREE-Choice in play; i.e. God will not take the un-willing into his Kingdom against their will!
- We already know we are to confront in **truth** and **love**; pray for wisdom

**James 5:19** My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, 20let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will **save his soul from death** and will cover a multitude of sins.

**SUMMARY: Willful Sin that Leads to Death:** We are to confront, not pray for life, for those willingly and gleefully involved in the "will not enter the kingdom of God" type sins. We can have no assurance of their Salvation as they refuse to repent not fearing God. They also have no assurance of Eternal Life while living in sin.

**c) Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit:** Unpardonable Sin leading to Spiritual Death

- Not listening to God's prompting by the Holy Spirit regarding Salvation and the Person of Christ is Eternal Damnation; i.e. Spiritual Death

**John 16:7** ...I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go

away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. <sup>8</sup> And when He has come, He will **convict the world of sin**, and of righteousness, and of judgment: <sup>9</sup> of sin, because they do not believe in Me...

- All sin leads to death but denying the Holy Spirits call to the obedience of trusting in Jesus seals the deal eternally:

**Romans 6:16:** Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of **sin** leading to **death**, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

- **Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit:** Rejection of Work and Word of Holy Spirit; turning from the one answer that can save, Jesus. **Adamant and persistent denial of the truth** is seen in the Pharisees attributing Jesus miracles to the enemy.

**Matthew 12:22** [Read] Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute was brought to Jesus, and He healed him, so that the mute man spoke and saw. <sup>23</sup> All the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?" <sup>24</sup> But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons."**...28** "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you**...31**"Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. **32**"Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

**Mark 3:29** ... he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation"—<sup>30</sup> because they said, "He has an unclean spirit."

- **Rejection of the Person and Work of Jesus:**

**John 8:24** "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; **for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.**"

**Hebrews 10:26** ... if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup> but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. <sup>28</sup> Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on *the testimony of two or three witnesses*. <sup>29</sup> Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? <sup>30</sup> For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people."<sup>31</sup> It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

**Genesis 6:3** ...the LORD said, "My **Spirit** shall not **strive** with man forever...

**Hebrews 3:15** "...Today," after such a long time, as it has been said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.

**2 Corinthians 6:1** We then, *as workers together with Him* also plead with *you* not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you. "Behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.

**Revelation 22:10** ... he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. <sup>11</sup> He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; **he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still**; he who is holy, let him be holy still."

## II. Confident Assurance of Victory

**18 We know that whoever is born of God does not sin**; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the **wicked one does not touch him**.<sup>19</sup> We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway of* the wicked one.<sup>20</sup> And **we know that the Son of God has come** and has given us an understanding, that **we may 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.

- **"We know..."** within vv.18-20: Refuting Gnostics? ["to know"] gr. Gnosko i.e. knowing by experience
  1. **We know that no one born of God sins** [lit. keeps on sinning]
  2. **We know that the wicked one does not touch us**
- **Christians cannot be demon-possessed**; oppressed, yes

**Jude 1:1**...To those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and **kept by Jesus Christ**: 2 Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

### 3. **We know that we are of God**

**Colossians 1:13** ...He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son... [But]

### 4. **We know the whole world [cosmos] lies "in the power of" the evil one**

**Lit.** "...we know that we are from God, and the whole world lies [actually, lies asleep] in wickedness [or, in the arms of the evil one.]

**Isaiah 25:7** And on this mountain He [God] will swallow up the covering *which is over all peoples, Even the veil which is stretched over all nations.*

### 5. **We know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding**

a) **To Know** Him Who is True, that we are in Him Who is True, we are in...

**"...Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life..." Jesus is God so:**

**<sup>21</sup> Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.**

- **Guard yourself:** Choice; Defensive as most armor in Ephesians Chapt.6 [put on]
- **Idols:** Doctrines of the false-teachers, anything that takes preeminence over Jesus
- Anti [in place of] Christ.

**1 Corinthians 10:7 Do** not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY."

**1 Corinthians 10:14** Therefore, my beloved, **flee from idolatry.**

**1 Thessalonians 1:9** For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you **turned to God from idols** to serve a living and true God...

**SUMMARY; confident Assurance of Victory:** We know we are in a war but that the victory has already been secured in Christ! **We are to keep our eyes on Him and our hearts near Him**

## **SUMMARY: 1 John 5**

### **I. Victory over the Cosmos**

1. Overcome by and overcoming in Jesus

### **II. Rock-Solid Testimony by Three Witnesses**

1. Water: Incarnation/Baptism
2. Blood: Death/Resurrection
3. Spirit

### **III. Sin that leads to Death**

1. A brother that sins not leading to death: Pray for wisdom
2. Those in sin that leads to death: Confront and rescue

### **IV. Confident Assurance of Victory**

1. We know we are in a battle that has already been won
2. We are to make Jesus preminent and celebrate our Salvation in Him:

*Though for now "...the whole world lies in the power of the evil one...*

*The LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; A banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, And refined, aged wine. 7And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, Even the veil which is stretched over all nations. 8He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord GOD will wipe tears away*

**I John Wrap-Up: Motive and Response;** *our motive to love others is a response to the Father first loving us as exemplified in the Gift of His Son, and only attainable through the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through us, worked out in self-sacrificial love for one another which in turn glorifies God and gives us confidence now and in the day of judgment.*

## I. Danger of False Love: People Pleasing

**Loves Substitute:** We must love in truth with no appeasement to falseness...period

**Romans 12:9 Love must be sincere.** Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

**Ephesians 4:15 ...speaking the truth in love,** we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head; i.e. Christ

- Speaking the truth with regard to:
  1. **False religion, Peoples "wants", Discipline;** e.g. kids, the church, etc. [see "stoning" in the O.T.]
- As we seek to "love" we will naturally gravitate to **people pleasing** if not cautious
- Substitute: Anti [in the place of] Christ; People pleasing is **Self-Love** Self-serving
- **We may want to be a fragrant offering even to those perishing...THIS IS PEOPLE PLEASING...The cross itself is an offense**

**2 Corinthians 2:15** For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; 16 to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life

- Let us **not seek to be a pleasing aroma to those perishing**
- **2 Diametrically Opposed Fears:**
  1. Fear of **God:** Wisdom[c.f. Proverbs 1:7]
  2. Fear of **Man;** People Pleasing which is a snare and a trap

**Proverbs 29:25** The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.

- We do not do good deeds for the approval of men, but for the glory of God:

**1 Corinthians 4:3** ...it is a very small thing that I may be examined by you, or by any human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself.

**John 2:23** Now when He [Jesus] was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing. But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, <sup>25</sup>and because He **did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.**

- Jesus did what the Father showed Him as He abided in the Father:

**John 5:19** ..."Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

- We are to do **what the Father shows us:**

**Ephesians 2: 10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which *God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

**1 Samuel 15:22** Samuel said [to Saul], "Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice,** And to heed than the fat of rams. 23" **For rebellion is as the sin of divination,** And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry

**SUMMARY:** People pleasing is a **satanic** substitute [i.e. morality without Christ] for love. We are to love in deed and **Truth:**