



LETTERS OF John

1 & 2 & 3 John

The Letters of John | “Keeping Secrets”

1 John 5:1-12

I remember a time when someone kept a secret from me...→Has anyone every kept a secret from you?→1 Jn. 5:1-12

→At some point in our lives, someone confided in us something important. It made us feel special. But we've also been on the other end of a secret kept. That had the potential of making us feel like we were on the outside looking in. The good news of the Gospel of Jesus is that it isn't secret knowledge that rescues us. God desires to reveal Jesus to ALL of us, in a way we can understand, so we can experience Heaven, starting on Earth. That is worth sharing!

→What reveals Jesus [besides my words]?→BP Graphic→To download, [Click here!](#)

→**Text Background:** John writes to rebut deceptive teaching advocating for compromise. His churches were influenced by Gnostics who believed “sin” was ignorance of spirit's superiority over matter, thus anything done in the body didn't matter; Cerinthians, a specific form of Gnosticism; and the Docetists who believed Jesus was only a divine mirage. John challenges our faith through the right view of Jesus (**doctrine**) & keeping His commands/love (**praxis**).

1 John 5:1-12: *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too. 2 We know we love God's children if we love God and obey his commandments. 3 Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. 4 For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith. 5 And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God.*

My life reveals Jesus.→How do WE reveal Jesus?→He's not a secret!

- We reveal Jesus through our beliefs, our love for God's children (which is proved by our love for God and...), & our obedience to His commands.→Campbell family loves the Eagles. And its not a burden!
- This is not a burden...I love God...and therefore i will treat people well.→Francis Chan Quote
- VISION: Let's develop an invitational culture...complimented by individual lives that love & live out our beliefs...

→TRANSITION: Jesus is not a secret to be kept, He's a Savior to be shared. We share him when we live out our beliefs.

6 And Jesus Christ was revealed as God's Son by his baptism in water and by shedding his blood on the cross—not by water only, but by water and blood. And the Spirit, who is truth, confirms it with his testimony. 7 So we have these three witnesses— 8 the Spirit, the water, and the blood—and all three agree.

History reveals Jesus.→What does history reveal about Jesus?→That He showed up in the flesh & died for me!

- History witnessed: Jesus was baptized & died (uncontested).→The HS CONFIRMS this history in our hearts.
- The Gnostics believed the Spirit of the Christ descended on Jesus at Baptism & left in the Garden.
 - **Water:** Did God really become flesh?→“I saw the Holy Spirit descending like a dove from heaven and resting upon him. 33 I didn't know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, ‘The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’
 - **Blood:** Did God really die?→If he didn't we are still dead in our sin. Only God could simultaneously remove sin and restore what was lost. COMMUNION! Our past is covered...and we have hope for a future.
 - **Spirit** (truth): The Holy Spirit does not conceal TRUTH...but bears witness to Jesus into our hearts.
- Is Jesus Lord over my life...AND death?→Spittler's Funeral→We do not need to be afraid of death. = TESTIMONY!
- VISION: We will be a church that stares death in the face and...with a HUMBLE heart of gratitude.

→TRANSITION: Jesus was not a secret to be kept, but a Savior to be shared. History reveals, by confirmation of the HS, that we will follow in the footsteps of our Lord and Savior...and defeat death! But...is Jesus just an insurance policy?

9 Since we believe human testimony, surely we can believe the greater testimony that comes from God. And God has testified about his Son. 10 All who believe in the Son of God know in their hearts that this testimony is true. Those who don't believe this are actually calling God a liar because they don't believe what God has testified about his Son.

11 And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life.

The Father reveals Jesus.→God testifies/reveals that eternal life is IN Jesus.→Is Jesus a fire insurance policy?→Josh

- We can't have eternal life outside of Jesus is because eternal life is IN Jesus!→
- No Heaven someday, unless Jesus is TODAY.→Hell also starts today...
- The life that God desires for us...doesn't start in Heaven...it starts IN CHRIST. NOW!→Josh
- Evangelism is so much easier when our friends FEEL Heaven when they are near us.
- Yeah but...my life FEELS like Hell. You can be walking through the Valley of the Shadow of Death and the evangelistic witness is THE Shepherds staff bringing you comfort. LIFE IN THE SHADOW OF DEATH.
- **God Gets us.**→Join this NEW Dream Team!

→TRANSITION: Jesus is being revealed through our lives, through history...and through God own testimony.

→**Jesus is not a secret to be kept, but a savior to be shared!**

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. Have I ever had people keep an important and beneficial secret from me? How did that make me feel?
2. What are the three witnesses to the identity of Jesus in this passage that can bolster our desire to share Christ?
3. Which witness do I struggle with the most? How do our lives preach the message of Heaven on Earth?
4. Why does God desire people to know the Truth? What impact will it make on His Creation, their lives, and others?
5. **PRAYER:** "Father, help us to live our beliefs in Jesus so others can follow him, too!"

QUOTES:

- “Any method of evangelism will work if God is in it.” - Leonard Ravenhill
- “Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter.” - Charles Spurgeon
- “Christians are like manure: spread them out and they help everything grow better.” - Francis Chan
- “Today Christians spend more money on dog food than missions.” - Leonard Ravenhill

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ARTICLE LINKS:

- **Barna Website:** “Almost Half of Practicing Christian Millennials Say Evangelism Is Wrong” - [Click here!](#)

GRAPHICS / VIDEOS:

- Bible Project **123 John Graphic:** [Click here!](#)
- Bible Project **Video:** [Click Here for Youtube Separate Browser Window.](#)



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SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

- **John 1:8** - John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light.
- **John 1:29-33** - 29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 He is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘A man is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.’ 31 I did not recognize him as the Messiah, but I have been baptizing with water so that he might be revealed to Israel.” 32 Then John testified, “I saw the Holy Spirit descending like a dove from heaven and resting upon him. 33 I didn’t know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, ‘The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’”
- **John 19:26-27** - 26 When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, “Dear woman, here is your son.” 27 And he said to this disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from then on this disciple took her into his home.

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