

1 John 4

1. What does it mean to be a child of God?
-We have a father who has given us eternity in heaven.
2. What does it mean that when Christ appears, we shall be like Him?
-We shall be like Christ in every way, except that He alone is God.
3. What is an important difference between Christians and non-Christians concerning sin?
-When Christians sin, they feel bad and ask God to help them not to continue in the sin.
-When non-Christians sin, they do not feel bad, and continue on in the sin.
4. Are Christians righteous because we do what is right?
-No.
5. How are Christians righteous?
-Because of the righteousness of Christ in us.
6. How is the Lord Jesus the best example of love?
-He sacrificed Himself on the cross so that we could live.
7. Why would the heart of a Christian condemn him?
-Because our faith in Christ is not strong.
8. Is God greater than our weaknesses, our failures, and our sins?

-Yes.

9. Why would our hearts not condemn us?
-Because our faith in Christ is strong.
-Because we greatly understand that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Let's read 1 John 4:1-3

1-Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

2-This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

3-but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

-Why should we not believe every spirit, but test the spirits?

-Because there are many lies and much false teaching in the world.

-In this world today, there are more false teachers than teachers who teach the truths of God.

-There are even pastors in churches which teach lies instead of the Word of God.

-According to 1 John 4:2-3, how do we test the spirits?

-Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.

-Every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God.

-A true Christian knows that Christ is eternal God who left heaven to enter the flesh and become a human so that He could die for us.

-Any religion or teaching that does not teach that Christ alone can save us is antichrist and is from Satan.

Let's read 1 John 4:4-6

4-You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

5-They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them.

6-We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

-1 John 4:4 is an important verse.

-We can translate 1 John 4:4 as this: "Christ who is in us

is greater than Satan who is in the world."

-Why should a Christian not be afraid of Satan?

-Because Christ in us is greater than Satan.

-Satan can do nothing to a Christian that Christ does not allow.

-It is Christ in Christians who is our truth, and all who will not listen to the Word of Christ are of Satan.

-In the remaining verses of this chapter, God and John write about love.

-All people have a desire to love and a desire to be loved.

Let's read 1 John 4:7-8

7-Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

8-Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

-On this earth, we will never find perfect love from other people.

-When young people get married, they think that they will have perfect love in their marriage, but they understand quickly that this is not possible.

- No human can perfectly love another human.
- Perfect love is from God alone.

-On this earth, we will never find perfect love even from ourselves.

-When our friends are not friendly with us, we think that we can only be happy with ourselves, but this is also not possible.

- No human can perfectly love himself or herself.
- Perfect love is from God alone.

Let's read 1 John 4:9-11

9-This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

10-This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

11-Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

-Because God's love is perfect and ours is not, we must allow the love of God in us to love others.

-This is the meaning in verse 9 when it says that "we might live through Him."

-Here is an illustration:

-An old man set fire to a young man's hut when the young man and his daughter were inside the hut.

-The young man and his daughter were able to escape from the hut, but the daughter was horribly burned and almost died.

-Although the young man could not love the old man on his own because he burned down his hut and almost killed his daughter, the love of God inside of the young man was able to love the old man.

- The love of people is not perfect, but rather selfish.
- The love of God, however, is perfect.

-Even if we cannot love some of our brothers and sisters, is the love of God in us able to do so?

-Yes.

-We must allow the love of God in us to love others.

Let's read 1 John 4:12

12-No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

-While God is spirit which means that He cannot be seen, other people can see the love of God in us Christians.

-Therefore, if we want to show God to those who are not

Christian, we can show God to them by His love in us.

-Some people think that we see God most in others by the power of God in them, but this is not true.

-Some people think that we see God most in others by being liked by many people, but this is not true.

-Some people think that we see God most in others by the strong feelings they have, but this is not true.

-How do we best see God in ourselves and in others?

-By the love of God in us.

-Christ was weak, not liked by many people, and did not give others strong feelings, but He was always full of the love of the Father.

Let's read 1 John 4:13-15

13-This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit.

14-And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

15-If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.

-These verses teach us that we, as Christians, can know that we have the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in our lives.

-Verse 13 teaches us that God the Holy Spirit has been given to us.

-Some people say that Christians must have a second filling of the Holy Spirit after believing in Christ, but this is not true.

-Verse 14 teaches us we have the Lord Jesus who is our Savior.

-John saw the Lord Jesus and can testify that He is the Savior of the world.

-Verse 15 teaches us that God the Father lives in us and we live in God the Father.

-God the Father lives in all true Christians through Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Let's read 1 John 4:16

16-And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

-This verse teaches us the importance for the Christian to know that God loves us.

-Some people might say that God must love them because they are wonderful, but this is not true.

-We all have sinned and our sin before a holy God merits death (Romans 3:23).

-Some people might say that God cannot love them because they have sinned too much, but this is not true.

-The love of Christ on the cross has paid for every sin, and God's love is greater than our sin.

-Some people might say that God loves me so much that I can sin whenever I want, but this should not happen.

-God loved us before we were ever born.

-Jeremiah 31:3 says this, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness."

-How is people's love not like God's love?

-People's love is based on what other people do or do not do to them.

-God's love, however, is based on Himself, His goodness, His righteousness, and His holiness.

-Our walk on this earth should be based on God's perfect love for us even though we do not deserve it.

Let's read 1 John 4:17

17-This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.

-What is the day of judgment?

-For Christians, there will be no judgment of our sins they have already been judged on the cross.

-This helps us to understand that the day of judgment will be at the end of time when non-believers will be judged for their sins.

-Why should Christians have confidence on the day of judgment?

-Because we have believed that Christ has died for our sins, and that we live for Him and not for ourselves.

-In verse 17, we also read that in this world, we are like Jesus.

-In 1 John 3:2, we read this:

-“But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

-In the third chapter, God and John write that we shall be like Christ when He appears, but now in this chapter, it is written that we are like Christ.

-How are we Christians like Jesus?

-Just as Christ and the Father are one, we are also one with Christ and the Father.

-Just as God the Holy Spirit lived in Christ, God the Holy Spirit lives in all Christians.

-Just as the world and Satan are against Christ, Satan and the world are against Christians.

Let's read 1 John 4:18

18-There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

-In the Word of God, there are two types of fear.

-One type of fear is respect.

-1 Peter 2:17 teaches us this: "Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor."

-In Revelation 14:7, an angel cries in a loud voice: "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come."

-The other type of fear is being afraid.

-If our love for God and for others is perfect, then we will not be afraid of God or others.

-While the love of people is not perfect, the love of God in Christians is perfect.

-When we are not able to love on our own, we must cry out to God that His love in us will love others.

Let's read 1 John 4:19

19-We love because he first loved us.

-What is the only reason that we love God?

-Because God first loved us.

-Without God loving us first, we would not love Him.

Let's read 1 John 4:20-21

20-Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

21-And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

-If we say that we love God, yet we hate a brother or sister, then we do not love God as we should love Him.

-It is not our love, but the love of God in us that can love all people.