

# 1 John

by Peter Hammond

---

*The sermon emphasizes the importance of living in love and loving the Truth, and warns against the dangers of worldly desires and the spirit of antichrist.*

**Scripture:** 1 John 1:1-2

**Topics:** "Abiding In Christ", "Fellowship With God"

---

## Description

Peter Hammond preaches on the importance of abiding in Christ, walking in the light, and living in love and truth as highlighted in the letters of John. He emphasizes the contrasts between light and darkness, life and death, and the need to choose between Christ and the world. The sermon focuses on the themes of fellowship with God, abiding in Christ, and the necessity of keeping from false teachings and sinful living. Hammond urges believers to walk in obedience, love one another, and stand firm against the deception and hatred of the world.

---

## Transcript

### Author

John was the youngest of the Apostles, the Disciple whom Jesus loved. John was the last living Apostle. In many ways he seems to have been the one Disciple who was Jesus' best friend on earth. He is the only one of the Apostles who did not die for the Faith, but he was persecuted and exiled to the remote island of Patmos. These letters were written by John while in Ephesus, before his exile to Patmos. John also wrote the last of the four Gospels. John's Gospel was written so that you might believe. 1 John is written so that you might know. 1 John is the fourth of the seven general Epistles. These Epistles are not addressed to any specific church and only known by the name of the author, even though he does not mention his name in it.

### Contrasts and Conflict

There are many contrasts: between light and darkness, between life vs. death, love vs. hate and love vs. lust, truth vs. falsehood and lies, righteousness vs. lawlessness, God's Law vs. lawlessness, Heaven vs. hell. Children of God vs. children of the devil, love for God vs. love for the world and ultimately Christ vs. anti-Christ.

### No Neutrality

There is no neutrality. We are either for Christ, or against Him. Choose you this day. The Word of God vs. the world. 1 John was written to counteract false teachers who deny the deity of Jesus Christ, those who deny that Jesus is the Messiah, those who deny that Jesus had come in the flesh. Many people have developed a relaxed attitude towards sin. We must stand firm on Christian belief and for Christian behaviour, opposing false teaching and enduring persecution.

#### Eyewitness to the Word of Life

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life - the life was manifested and we have seen and bear witness and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us - that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full." 1 John 1:1-4

The emphasis is: Incarnation of Christ. Living in the light, in love and loving the Truth. John starts off with the basis of our fellowship. John is an eyewitness of the Incarnation. He walked with Him, followed Him, ate with Him, touched Him, he heard His teaching. The Gospel is true.

#### Themes

The key themes are: Life, light, truth, sin, born of God and abiding in Christ. (John 15 also talks about abiding in Christ.) The emphasis is fellowship with God, abiding in Christ, keeping from false teaching, from worldliness and from living in sin, Salvation is by the grace of God through the Blood of Jesus Christ alone. The key word is know. It is used over 30 times in this short Epistle.

#### Walk in the Light

"This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But, if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the Blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His Word is not in us." 1 John 1:5-10

#### Inevitable, Incompatible, Intolerable, Indefensible

We need to walk in the light as Christ did. Sin is a reality. We do sin. It is inevitable. We will sin, it is incompatible. We should not sin, it is intolerable. We must not sin, it is indefensible. John gives insights as to who God is and how we need to respond to Him. We are encouraged to right belief and to right behaviour. We need to walk in the light, because God is light, holy, perfect. We should be like God. If we walk in the light, then we should have fellowship with each other and the Blood of Jesus Christ, God's son, cleanses us from all sin. Those who say they have not sinned are self-deceived. Jesus said: "Only God is good!"

#### We Have an Advocate

"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins and not for ours only but also for the whole world." 1 John 2:1-2. It is an encouragement to have a lawyer who will intercede and speak up for you, someone who knows the law and uses it to its fullest extent to defend you in court. We have the Advocate, who defends us in the Highest Supreme Court in all the universe and in all of history, before the Throne of God.

### Propitiation for Our Sins

Propitiation is a powerful word which speaks about removing the wrath of God from above us. Sadly, some Bible translations such as the Contemporary English Version (CEV) claim in the foreword to have removed "all difficult words", such as propitiation, justification, sanctification, grace, repentance and repent. Grace has been replaced with God's kindness, which does not come close to explain what GRACE is, which is God's Riches At Christ's Expense. Grace is undeserved mercy. How can we understand what it is to be a Christian and behave like a Christian, if we have dumbed down our vocabulary? Here we have war waged on the English language itself, removing those Scriptural words that are powerful. For example: Today we use terms in Evangelism that you do not find in the Bible: We need to "accept Jesus as our personal Saviour." Actually He has to accept us! We need to seek entry into His Kingdom. Yet today with modern Evangelism, we are told that "Jesus is knocking on the door of your heart." We have to open the door to Him? They have made a god like the magic genie, where he says: "Your wish is my command!" That is a fairy tale. Some have turned things around where God is now the one seeking us to give Him permission! But, it is us knocking on His door. God is Lord, we are His bondservants, slaves. Propitiation does not just mean that we are in danger of the wrath of God. The wrath of God abides over us already. Those who are not in Christ, who have not Repented and not been Regenerated by the power of God's Word, have the wrath of God over them already. Jesus comes as the Propitiation of our sins and He takes the wrath of God away from over us. He takes our punishment upon Himself.

### Those Who Love God Keep His Commandments

"Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him. But, whoever keeps His Word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the Word which you heard from the beginning. Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. He who says he is in the light and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes." 1 John 2:3-11

### The Marks of a Christian

Antinomians are against God's Commandments and wage war against God's Law. There is a hostility towards God's Law. Many are quick to tell you what you are doing is against the law of the land. There are those who think God's Law is evil and oppressive, but man's law, we must observe! Jesus said His yolk is easy, His burden is light. How do we know that we are in Christ? We start to obey God's Commands! It is

easy for people who come from the world to understand this. Those in the world involved in crimes and vices were transformed when they were saved. These converts know what they are saved from. Their lives are transformed. They change for the good. It is harder for people who have been brought up in Christian families to understand. They think they are good people. "My family is Christian." Such people have trouble knowing what they are saved from, because they often do not even recognise that they were sinners in the first place. John is writing to people who know what it is to be converted. By this we know we are in Him, when we keep His Commandments.

#### God's Perfect Law of Liberty

Converts have come from breaking every commandment in the Book. Now they worship God alone.

Once they bowed to idols, now they destroy their idols.

Once blasphemers, now they do not take God's Name in vain. They sing God's praises and honour Him.

From not honouring the Sabbath Day, they now keep the day of worship and rest.

From disrespecting their parents, they now honour and respect their parents.

From being murderers, even by hating from the heart, now they love their neighbour and even love their enemies.

From living in adultery, they now live in purity, faithfulness and loyalty.

From stealing, they now tithe and give with a generous heart.

From liars, they now apologise and make right their slander.

From living in covetousness and greed, they now live in generosity and self-sacrifice.

One can recognise the transformation of a person through God's Law. Sin is lawlessness. Loving God is walking in His Commandments. God's Laws are not burdensome. They are God's perfect Law of liberty. They free us from sin's destructiveness. The world promises us Heaven and gives us hell. The Law protects us and spares us from many griefs.

#### Trust and Obey - Live in Love

Jesus Christ suffered for us and left us an example that we should follow in His footsteps. The Old Commandment which you have had from the beginning, is to obey God's Word. The New Commandment is love. Trust and obey, for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey. We need to walk in obedience and in love. Those who say they are Christians but hate their brother show that they are still living in darkness. If we recognise that God is love and how much God has loved us and forgiven us, then how can we not reflect some of that love in being merciful and gracious to people who have mistreated us, especially brothers and sisters in Christ. People who live in hatred are blind to all reality, logic, facts and history. Hate filled people cannot even think straight. They are also destroying themselves with their hate.

#### Fathers and Young Men

"I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His Name's sake. I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, because you have known the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong and the Word of God abides in you and you have overcome the wicked one." 1 John 2:12-14. God is not egalitarian. There are distinctions in Scripture, with regard to age, gender and station. Young or old, male or female, servants or masters. God is not egalitarian and the Bible is not antinomian. See how fathers are called to know God. Young men are called to be strong, with the Word of God abiding in them, overcoming the wicked one. Resist temptations, lies, deceit, falsehood, heresies and stand firm for the truth.

#### You Cannot Love Both God and the World

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life - is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." 1 John 2:15-17. Do not love the world, or anything in the world. If you love God you make yourself an enemy of the world and if you love the world you make yourself an enemy of God. The Word and the world are in conflict. God and satan are enemies. As Martin Luther said: "You cannot pray: 'Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed by Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven' without praying that every other name be brought down, that every kingdom that is in opposition to God's Kingdom be defeated and removed." When we pray for God's will to be done, we pray for satan's work to be frustrated, exposed, defeated and annihilated. You cannot be neutral.

#### The Lure of Lust

The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, sums up Hollywood. Their whole ethos is egalitarian, hedonistic, heathen and pagan. The greatest enemy is within us, because evil comes from within our own hearts. We have to constantly wage war against the flesh. These lusts will pass away with the world. All that is coveted, along with the lusts of the flesh, will all pass away, it will become dust and worth nothing. We are told to work for that which endures. The Word of God will last forever, the Kingdom of God, the people and the creatures of God will last forever. Invest in eternity. Live your life in the light of eternity. Do not live for the passing things that the world is distracting you with, things that tempt us and distract us from what is really ultimately, eternally important.

#### Many Antichrists Have Come

"Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. 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 they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. But, you have an anointing from the Holy One and you know all things. I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it and that no lie is of the truth. Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also." 1 John 2:18-23

#### Those Who Deny Christ Are Antichrist

What is Antichrist? Antichrist is anyone who denies the Father and the Son. Whatever is against Christ and whatever seeks to put itself in the place of Christ. Protestants, in all the great declarations, from the Helvetic Confession, the Synod of Dort, the Westminster Confession of the Faith, the Augsburg Confession, from the 16th century, identify the papacy of Catholicism as antichrist. Jesus used the words "Holy Father" only once in the Garden of Gethsemane when He addressed the Father in Heaven. For any human being, sinful and fallible as we are to claim to be "his holiness" is outrageous. The papacy is antichrist. They have persecuted the church, they banned Bibles for centuries and burned Bible translators. The papacy decapitated people for the Faith, such as Queen Jane, the nine day Queen of England. Lady Jane Gray before the Inquisition, refused to denounce her Faith, so she was beheaded. William Tyndale was burned at the stake for the crime of translating the Bible into English. No wonder Protestants have always seen the pharisee popes as antichrist.

### Islam and the Papacy are Antichrist

All the Reformers taught that Islam and the papacy are antichrist. We see in the great statue of Daniel 2, as the Roman Empire split into two, one leg was taken over by the Roman Catholic papacy and the other leg was taken over by Islam. Islam is one of the two horns of antichrist and one of the two legs of the beast. Judaism is also antichrist as it denies Christ as the Messiah. The World Council of Churches is antichrist. Humanism is antichrist. The United Nations is antichrist. Hollywood is antichrist. The spirit of antichrist has spread throughout the world. We need to reject anything that is antichrist and everything that seeks to assert itself in the place of Christ. Everything that resists the truth that Jesus is the Christ is antichrist.

### Sacred Name and Hebrew Roots

Christos is the Greek word for Messiah. Jesus is from the Hebrew name Yeshua. So Jesus Christ includes both Hebrew and Greek Names. Today, many Judaizers see it as a thought crime to use any other language but Hebrew. They claim that God will not even listen to your prayers if you do not pray in Hebrew. He will not even recognise that He is being spoken to, if you do not use the Hebrew name. They reject anybody who does not use the Hebrew term for Jesus. However, the New Testament was first written in Greek. Jesus preached in Greek. The New Testament had to be translated into Hebrew because it was first revealed in Greek. Lack of loyalty and lack of perseverance show that a person did not actually belong (1 John 2:19).

### Abide in Christ - Abide in Truth

"Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that He has promised us - Eternal life. These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you." 1 John 2:24-26. Beware of deception. The first two chapters have been dealing with right belief and walking in the light. Now in the second part of the letter, it deals with right behaviour. Walking and living in love.

### The Evidence of Salvation is Seen in a Changed Life

"And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him." 1 John 2:28-29. A righteous lifestyle is one of the fruit of a regenerate life, the fruit of the Spirit. When you see a person's life turned around, you know something has

happened because of radical change.

### Adopted Into the Family of God

"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure." 1 John 3:1-3. We are not only forgiven sinners, we are adopted sons and daughters of God! Just like the wicked prodigal son came back saying: "Father I have sinned against Heaven and against you, I am no longer worthy to be called your son, make me one of your hired servants." But the father does more than that. He forgives him, clothes him, puts a ring on his finger, throws a feast for him and makes him a son and heir again, even though he had squandered his inheritance. The Lord's love is so much greater than forgiveness. He adopts us into His family! Because of His extravagant grace, we should be extravagant in our grace to others. We need to live in love.

### The Son of God Came to Destroy the Works of the Devil

"Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness and sin is lawlessness. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God." 1 John 3:4-9.

### Living in Sin or Falling Into Sin

Antinomianism, the hostility to God's Law is, by definition, sin, it is lawlessness. The first heresy to be condemned by the Apostles. Jesus came to set the captives free. He did not come to make it safe and easy for us to sin and get away with it. He did not come to transfer property ownership from the owner to the thief! Restitution is still required. A change in lifestyle is intended. The Lord came to destroy the works of the devil. We know we all sin, so how can we be without sin? The Word here talks about present continuous tense sin. He who has been born of God does not continue to live in sin, does not continue to practise sin. There is a big difference between a regenerate person trying to follow Christ who occasionally slips into sin, confesses it, repents of it, does restitution and gets back up and tries to faithfully follow Christ again. The person who wallows in, boasts about and revels in his sin, who does not feel guilty, remorseful, or repentant but champions and parades their sin is unregenerate. The contrast is here colossal.

### Hate is Committing Murder in the Heart

"In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. Whoever hates his

brother is a murderer and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him." 1 John 3:10-15. True love is seen in action and measured by sacrifice. Christ showed how much He loves us by how much He sacrificed for us. We show love for God by how much we sacrifice for Him.

#### True Love is Seen in Action and Measured by Sacrifice

"By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods and sees his brother in need and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth and shall assure our hearts before Him.... And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the Name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment." 1 John 3:16-23. Sins of omission are important. Its not just bad things we have done, but good things we have failed to do. Matthew 25 describes the Day of Judgement, in terms of the good things we fail to do. We need to abide in Christ, abide in His love and obey His Commandments. This is written not only for us to believe, not only to know, but to do. "Now he who keeps His Commandments abides in Him and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us." 1 John 3:24

#### Those Who Reject Christ are Antichrist

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming and is now already in the world." 1 John 4:1-3. We are warned against deception, false prophets and false spirits. It is not virtuous to be gullible. Just because something is in the Bible, does not mean it is from God. The Bible quotes things others said. We are told to test all things. By this you know the Spirit of God. Every spirit that confesses Jesus Christ came in the flesh is of God. Every spirit that does not confess Jesus Christ in the flesh, is not of God. This is the spirit of antichrist.

#### Discern Between the Spirit of Truth and the Spirit of Error

"You are of God, little children and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error." 1 John 4:4-6. Christ in you, is greater than he who is in the world. The world listens to its own. When we see a church leader who is popular with the world and they love what he says, this is the spirit of error at work. The world hates Christ. Christ is in opposition to the world. If we put ourselves on the side of the world and are popular, we have aligned ourselves against God. To be a friend of the world is to be an enemy of God.

#### God is Love

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." 1 John 4:7-11. Love epitomises God and

therefore love should characterise His followers. Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. Love your neighbour with an unwavering, steadfast abiding love. Love is not a feeling. It is an act of your will. Love is an attitude. Love is not sentimentality, it is not fuzzy feelings. Love is patient, kind, polite. Love perseveres, it is beyond deep affection, it is abiding loyalty, generosity and sacrifice. To understand love, we have to understand there are four words in Greek for love: Storge (family love), Philio (love for your friends), Eros (romantic and sexual love) and Agape (unconditional, sacrificial God's love). The Greek language had Storge, Philio and Eros before, but the Gospels introduced a new word in Greek, Agape, which means God's love. When we read God is love, we read: God is Agape. It is a sacrificial, giving love.

#### Perfect Love Cast Out Fear

"No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us and His love has been perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Saviour of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love and he who abides in love abides in God and God in him. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us." 1 John 4:12-19

#### You Cannot Love God, If You Hate Your Brother

"If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also." 1 John 4:20-21. This is why we are told, if your brother has something against you, leave your gift at the altar and first make right with him. Part of our worship is to make sure we are right with fellow-believers. You cannot just leave it up to the person whom you think is guilty. Even if you see yourself as the victim, you should be making right with them, in so far as it is possible.

#### Overcome the Hatred & Deception of the World by Being Faithful to Christ

"Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves Him who is begotten of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His Commandments. And His Commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our Faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" 1 John 5:1-5.

#### Regeneration Should Lead to Righteousness

We see regeneration should lead to righteousness. Your doctrine leads to your duties. Your belief leads to your behaviour. We are overcomers. We are not called to be victims, but to be victors.

"This is He who came by water and blood - Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness

on earth: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and these three agree as One." 1 John 5:6-8. This references the Incarnation and the Atonement. We are born in water and blood. Jesus was baptised and He died for us - from the Incarnation to the Baptism of Christ and to His Atonement. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are One.

#### He Who Has Christ Has Life - Those Who Reject Christ Do Not

"If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life and that you may continue to believe in the Name of the Son of God." 1 John 5:9-13. Perseverance of the Saints. Warning about the sin of Apostasy. Those who reject and turn away from Christ are rejecting life. Jesus is referred to as Christ and Messiah ten times in this letter. We need to walk in the light. To live in Love. To expose falsehood. To oppose error. To resist idolatry. To stand for the truth.

#### Abide in Truth

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us... We know that we are of God and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. 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." 1 John 5:14-20

#### Keep Yourself from Idolatry

The last words of this Book are: "Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen." 1 John 5:21. Idolatry is the sin most condemned in Scripture. We have a true Gospel. We have forgiveness. We have a new life. We have a new way of living. We have the Holy Spirit. We have new love for the brethren. We have fellowship with God. Therefore we are commanded to: recognise false teachers by what they teach and by how they live.

#### Seven Tests

There are seven tests to see if we are in the Faith: Walk in the light. Confess your sins. Obey the Word. Follow the example of Christ. Love the brethren. Do not love the world and Persevere in Christ.

#### Rich Rewards

We see rich rewards: Assurance of Eternal Life. The Power of Prayer and victory over the world. We see that we are called to know God and to make Him known. To abide in truth and love and therefore to stand fast in Christ and confess our sins. To walk in love and fellowship. To walk as children of God. To walk in love and knowledge.

#### Know God and Make Him Known

God is light (1John 1:5).

God is righteous (1 John 2:29).

God is love (1 John 4:8,16).

God is life (1 John 5:11-12).

God is truth (2 John ).

God is good (3 John).

#### Bibliography

A General Introduction to the Bible, by Norman L. Geisler and William Nix, 1968, Moody.

Before Jerusalem Fell - Dating the Book of Revelation, by Ken Gentry

Explore the Book, by J. Sidlow Baxter, 1960, Zondervan.

Halley's Bible Handbook, by Henry H. Halley, 1927, Zondervan.

Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible, by Matthew Henry, 1710.

Survey of the Bible, by William Hendriksen, 1947, Baker.

The Annals of the World, by Bishop James Usher, 1658.

The Complete Who's Who in the Bible, by Paul D. Gardner, 1995, Zondervan.

The Oxford Companion to the Bible, by Bruce M. Metzger and Michael D. Coogan, 1993, Oxford University Press.

Ungers Bible Dictionary, by Merrill F. Unger, 1957, Moody.

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, by W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, 1985, Nelson.

When Critics Ask, by Norman Geisler and Thomas Howe, 1992, Victor.

---

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/peter-hammond/1-john/>

# *Grow in Your Walk with Christ*

---

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

**[www.sermonindex.net](http://www.sermonindex.net)**