



This devotional journal is private and belongs to:

How To Use This Devotional Journal

Journaling is a powerful discipline to help you grow in your relationship with God. When we take the time to write down the Word of God with application, it will begin to take root in our hearts. In ancient times with Israel, it was the responsibility of each king to write down a copy of God's laws and apply it in his heart.

In Deuteronomy 17:18-20 (NIV) we read, "When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites. ¹⁹ It is to be with him, and he is to **read it** all the days of his life so that he may **learn to revere** the LORD his God and **follow carefully** all the words of this law and these decrees ²⁰ and **not consider himself better** than his brothers and turn from the law to the right or to the left. Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel."

I have broken down the Bible passages into smaller sections for you to read. I suggest you read each passage 2-3 times and then write down how each passage applies to your everyday life. Asking questions is a great way to go deeper in your Bible Study. The goal is to go deeper in the Word of God to strengthen your relationship with Jesus. READ one passage each day, REFLECT on what you have read, and then RESPOND by writing a personal prayer that will correlate to the passage you read. Use Saturday as a day to catch up if you need it. Sunday is designed to be a day to worship as a church and discuss any highlights of your week with your family and friends. Remember, knowledge isn't the goal, but rather life application of God's Word that blesses our family, church, and community.

In the back of this booklet there is a Prayer Journal. If you are like me, it is too easy to forget all that God has done and is doing. By keeping a record of your thankfulness and how God answers your prayers, you will see God at work. If you dare to keep a discipline of prayer for 30 days, I believe you will see God bring you on an amazing spiritual journey of His presence and joy.

Pastor Ed Turley
Cornerstone Church of Poway

Summary Of 1 John

The MacArthur Study Bible Commentary

Title

The epistle's title has always been "1 John." It is the first and largest in a series of 3 epistles that bear the Apostle John's name. Since the letter identifies no specific church, location, or individual to whom it was sent, its classification is as a "general epistle." Although 1 John does not exhibit some of the general characteristics of an epistle common to that time (e.g., no introduction, greeting, or concluding salutation), its intimate tone and content indicate that the term "epistle" still applies to it.

Author And Date

The epistle does not identify the author, but the strong, consistent and earliest testimony of the church ascribes it to John the disciple and apostle (cf. [Lk 6:13, 14](#)). This anonymity strongly affirms the early church's identification of the epistle with John the apostle, for only someone of John's well known and preeminent status as an apostle would be able to write with such unmistakable authority, expecting complete obedience from his readers, without clearly identifying himself (e.g., [4:6](#)). He was well known to the readers so he didn't need to mention his name.

John and James, his older brother ([Ac 12:2](#)), were known as "the sons of Zebedee" ([Mt 10:2-4](#)), whom Jesus gave the name "Sons of Thunder" ([Mk 3:17](#)). John was one of the 3 most intimate associates of Jesus (along with Peter and James—cf. [Mt 17:1; 26:37](#)), being an eyewitness to and participant in Jesus' earthly ministry ([1:1-4](#)). In addition to the 3 epistles, John also authored the fourth gospel, in which he identified himself as the disciple "whom Jesus loved" and as the one who reclined on Jesus' breast at the Last Supper ([Jn 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20](#)). He also wrote the book of Revelation ([Rev 1:1](#)).

Precise dating is difficult because no clear historical indications of date exist in 1 John. Most likely John composed this work in the latter part of the first century. Church tradition consistently identifies John in his advanced age as living and actively writing during this time at Ephesus in Asia Minor. The tone of the epistle supports this evidence since the writer gives the strong impression that he is much older than his readers (e.g., "my little children"—[2:1, 18, 28](#)). The epistle and John's gospel reflect similar vocabulary and manner of expression (see [Historical and Theological Themes](#)). Such similarity causes many to date the writing of John's epistles as occurring soon after he composed his gospel. Since many date the gospel during the latter part of the first century, they also prefer a similar date for the epistles. Furthermore, the heresy John combats most likely reflects the beginnings of Gnosticism (see [Background and Setting](#)) which was in its early stages during the latter third of the first century when John was actively writing. Since no mention is made of the persecution under Domitian, which

began about a.d. 95, it may have been written before that began. In light of such factors, a reasonable date for 1 John is ca. a.d. 90-95. It was likely written from Ephesus to the churches of Asia Minor over which John exercised apostolic leadership.

Background And Setting

Although he was greatly advanced in age when he penned this epistle, John was still actively ministering to churches. He was the sole remaining apostolic survivor who had intimate, eyewitness association with Jesus throughout His earthly ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension. The church Fathers (e.g., Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria, Eusebius) indicate that after that time, John lived at Ephesus in Asia Minor, carrying out an extensive evangelistic program, overseeing many of the churches that had arisen, and conducting an extensive writing ministry (e.g., epistles, The Gospel of John, and Revelation). One church Father (Papias) who had direct contact with John described him as a "living and abiding voice." As the last remaining apostle, John's testimony was highly authoritative among the churches. Many eagerly sought to hear the one who had first-hand experience with the Lord Jesus.

Ephesus (cf. [Ac 19:10](#)) lay within the intellectual center of Asia Minor. As predicted years before by the Apostle Paul ([Ac 20:28-31](#)), false teachers arising from within the church's own ranks, saturated with the prevailing climate of philosophical trends, began infecting the church with false doctrine, perverting fundamental apostolic teaching. These false teachers advocated new ideas which eventually became known as "Gnosticism" (from the Gr. word "knowledge"). After the Pauline battle for freedom from the law, Gnosticism was the most dangerous heresy that threatened the early church during the first 3 centuries. Most likely, John was combating the beginnings of this virulent heresy that threatened to destroy the fundamentals of the faith and the churches (see [Interpretive Challenges](#)).

Gnosticism, influenced by such philosophers as Plato, advocated a dualism asserting that matter was inherently evil and spirit was good. As a result of this presupposition, these false teachers, although attributing some form of deity to Christ, denied His true humanity to preserve Him from evil. It also claimed elevated knowledge, a higher truth known only to those in on the deep things. Only the initiated had the mystical knowledge of truth that was higher even than the Scripture.

Instead of divine revelation standing as judge over man's ideas, man's ideas judged God's revelation ([2:15-17](#)). The heresy featured two basic forms. First, some asserted that Jesus' physical body was not real but only "seemed" to be physical (known as "Docetism" from a Gr. word that means "to appear"). John forcefully affirmed the physical reality of Jesus by reminding his readers that he was an eyewitness to Him ("heard," "seen," "touched," "Jesus Christ has come in

the flesh"—[1:1-4](#); [4:2, 3](#)). According to early tradition (Irenaeus), another form of this heresy which John may have attacked was led by a man named Cerinthus, who contended that the Christ's "spirit" descended on the human Jesus at his baptism but left him just before his crucifixion. John wrote that the Jesus who was baptized at the beginning of His ministry was the same person who was crucified on the cross ([5:6](#)).

Such heretical views destroy not only the true humanity of Jesus, but also the atonement, for Jesus must not only have been truly God, but also the truly human (and physically real) man who actually suffered and died upon the cross in order to be the acceptable substitutionary sacrifice for sin (cf. [Heb 2:14-17](#)). The biblical view of Jesus affirms His complete humanity as well as His full deity.

The gnostic idea that matter was evil and only spirit was good led to the idea that either the body should be treated harshly, a form of asceticism (e.g., [Col 2:21-23](#)), or sin committed in the body had no connection or effect on one's spirit. This led some, especially John's opponents, to conclude that sin committed in the physical body did not matter; absolute indulgence in immorality was permissible; one could deny sin even existed ([1:8-10](#)) and disregard God's law ([3:4](#)). John emphasized the need for obedience to God's laws, for he defined the true love of God as obedience to His commandments ([5:3](#)).

A lack of love for fellow believers characterizes false teachers, especially as they react against anyone rejecting their new way of thinking ([3:10-18](#)). They separated their deceived followers from the fellowship of those who remained faithful to apostolic teaching, leading John to reply that such separation outwardly manifested that those who followed false teachers lacked genuine salvation ([2:19](#)). Their departure left the other believers, who remained faithful to apostolic doctrine, shaken. Responding to this crisis, the aged apostle wrote to reassure those remaining faithful and to combat this grave threat to the church. Since the heresy was so acutely dangerous and the time period was so critical for the church in danger of being overwhelmed by false teaching, John gently, lovingly, but with unquestionable apostolic authority, sent this letter to churches in his sphere of influence to stem this spreading plague of false doctrine.

The Enduring Word Bible Commentary

Fellowship: The idea of fellowship is one of the most important ideas in this letter of John's. It is the ancient Greek word *koinonia*, which speaks of a sharing, a communion, a common bond and common life. It speaks of a living, breathing, sharing, loving relationship with another person.

NIV Application Commentary

The Word And Fellowship ([1:3-4](#))

Embracing this word, experiencing this life, gaining this reference point—these are all prerequisites for Christian community. The purpose of John's letter is **fellowship**, "so that you also may have **fellowship** with us" (v. 3a). The Greek word translated "fellowship" in the NIV is *koinonia*, which means to have **something in common**. *Koinonia* may describe a shared labor (such as the fishing of James, John, and Simon, [Luke 5:10](#)) or the common enjoyment of some **gift or experience** (such as the **grace of God**, [Phil. 1:7](#); the **blessings** of the gospel, [1 Cor. 9:23](#); or the **Holy Spirit**, [2 Cor. 13:14](#)).

This is the crux of John's thought and the purpose of his writing.

Christian community is not some passing association of people who share common sympathies for a cause. Nor is it an academy where an intellectual consensus about God is discovered. It cannot be so superficial. **Christian community is partnership in experience; it is the common living of people who have a shared experience of Jesus Christ.** They talk about this experience, they urge each other to grow more deeply in it, and they discover that through it, they begin to **build a life together** unlike any shared life in the world.

But Christian community is not merely horizontal; it is not just a social phenomenon. John asserts that this **fellowship** is also "**with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ**" (v. 3b). This puts one more dimension to the meaning of community. Fellowship is not just the coincidence of a shared experience of God, where we compare our private spiritual walks; it is living and experiencing the Father and the Son together as believers. **Christian fellowship is triangular: my life in fellowship with Christ, your life in fellowship with Christ, and my life in fellowship with yours.** The mystical union I enjoy with Christ becomes the substance that binds the church together. In [verse 4](#) John adds that **the net result of such a community will be joy**—"to make our joy complete." This is a benefit, **a byproduct**, of a genuinely Christ-centered fellowship.

The themes seen here find a close parallel in Jesus' teaching in [John 15](#). Abiding in Christ, the vine, is the way to becoming Jesus' disciple ([15:8](#)) and experiencing his joy ([15:11](#)). Moreover, our union with the vine is the prerequisite for loving one another ([15:12-17](#)). Christian community once again grows from a matured relationship with God in his Son, Jesus Christ. And no doubt where this relationship with Christ is absent, such community is an impossibility.

Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary

In his first epistle, the apostle John presents a simple, uncomplicated worldview of right and wrong: Christ versus antichrists, light versus darkness, truth versus falsehood, righteousness versus sin, love of the Father versus love of the world, the Spirit of God versus the spirit of the world, children of God versus children of Satan. In this way, John redraws lines that had begun to fade in the minds of his readers who were beginning to compromise and capitulate in the fog of relativism around them. However, John's hard stand on truth doesn't neglect love. Love for God and for one another is a major theme of the letter (see, e.g., [1 Jn. 4:7](#)). His first epistle thus teaches that while it's important to recognize the lines between truth and error, it must always be done in a spirit of love.

Why was it written? So that believers would have fellowship with the Father and the Son and fellowship with one another in the Spirit, resulting in a joyful, clean, discerning, and confident life ([1 Jn. 1:3-4](#); [2:1](#); [5:13](#)).

John wrote this letter to drive home the point that Spirit-enabled fellowship with the Father and the Son produces a joyful life, a clean life, a discerning life, and a confident life. He does this through a four-part outline:

- Fellowship produces *a joyful life* ([1:1-10](#)).
- Fellowship produces *a clean life* ([2:1-17](#)).
- Fellowship produces *a discerning life* ([2:18-4:6](#)).
- Fellowship produces *a confident life* ([4:7-5:21](#)).

Key Verses:

We write this to make your joy complete. This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. **1 John 1:4-5,7 (NIV)**

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **1 John 1:9 (NIV)**

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. **1 John 2:1-2 (NIV)**

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **1 John 3:1 (NIV)**

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. **1 John 3:18-20 (NIV)**

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. **1 John 4:4 (NIV)**

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. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **1 John 4:9-11 (NIV)**

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 him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. 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. We love because he first loved us. **1 John 4:16-19 (NIV)**

This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. **1 John 5:3-4 (NIV)**

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. **1 John 5:12-13 (NIV)**

Devotional Journal For The Book Of 1 John

Day 1 _____ / Date _____

Read:

Christian Fellowship with God and Believers

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.”

John 1:1-4 (NIV)

Reflect:

Why is John able to testify to what Jesus said and did?

What truth is John proclaiming?

What an amazing truth! The infinite God who created everything wants to have a relationship with us! What does this mean to you?

Respond:

Day 2 _____ / Date _____

Read:

Authentic Fellowship

“This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. ⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.” **1 John 1:5-10 (NIV)**

“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.” **1 John 2:1-2 (NIV)**

Reflect:

What does it mean that God is light?

What does it mean to walk in darkness?

What helps you walk in the light?

If we confess our sins, what does God promise to do for us?

Why is it personally meaningful to know that Jesus is not just your Savior but your Advocate?

Respond:

Day 3 _____ / Date _____

Read:

Know That You Know

“We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. ⁴ The man who says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶ Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. ⁷ Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. ⁸ Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. ⁹ Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. ¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. ¹¹ But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.” **1 John 2:3-11 (NIV)**

Reflect:

Why did John address his readers as little children?

What does it mean to live like Jesus?

How has God's love changed you?

Has hate ever blinded you from God's love for others? 1 John 2:9

How readily do you forgive?

Respond:

Day 4 _____ / Date _____

Read:

The Love Of The World

“I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. ¹³ 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 evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father. ¹⁴ I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one. ¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.” **1 John 2:12-17**

Reflect:

In your spiritual life, which of the three stages John addresses in verses 12-14 can you most relate to: children, young men, or fathers?

Why did you pick that stage?

What does it mean to love the world?

John lists three typical features of the sinful world. What are they, and why are they such affronts to God? _____

What are some practical ways we can combat each of these temptations?

Respond:

Day 5 _____ / Date _____

Read:

The Last Hour False Teachers vs Prodigals

“Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us. ²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. ²¹ I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. ²² Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist--he denies the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. ²⁴ See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is what he promised us--even eternal life. ²⁶ I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. ²⁷ As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit--just as it has taught you, remain in him. ²⁸ And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. ²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.”

1 John 2:18-29

Reflect:

What images come to your mind when you hear the word “antichrist”?

Why is it significant that these antichrists went out from the church (v. 19)?

Why might that fact make these false teachers more difficult to recognize?

Look back at I John 2:20-23. What are the key pieces of doctrine that mark true believers?

Respond:

Day 6 _____ / Date _____

Read:

Children Of God

“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. ⁴ Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. ⁵ But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. ⁶ No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. ⁸ He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. ⁹ No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. ¹⁰ This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.” **1 John 3:1-10 (NIV)**

Reflect:

What will our efforts to remain in Jesus look like if we don't remember the love of Jesus?

What, according to John, is so remarkable about this love of God in Christ?

We remain in Christ because He has demonstrated His love for us at the cross. He did this not because we were righteous or deserving, but because He is good and loving Himself.

Respond:

Day 7 _____ / Date _____

Read:

Conquering Hate With Love

“This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. ¹² Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵ Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him. ¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. ¹⁹ This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴ Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.” **1 John 3:11-24 (NIV)**

Reflect:

Refer back to Genesis 4:1-16. How did Cain and Abel prepare their offerings for the Lord? _____

Why was Cain's offering rejected by God? _____

Why was Abel's offering pleasing to God? Read Hebrews 11:4 for additional insight. _____

Does verse 22 mean we can get God to do whatever we want? If not, what does it mean? _____

Respond:

Day 8 _____ / Date _____

Read:

Test The Spirits

“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. 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 4:1-6 (NIV)**

Reflect:

How does the fact that John called his readers “dear friends” influence the way you read what comes next? _____

Are false prophets and teachers always easy to recognize? Why or why not?

What is the first test we should place on any teaching?

Why is recognizing the humanity and divinity of Jesus at the same time the foundation for determining all truth?

What are some teachings you have encountered that have either stated or implied that Jesus is less than He claimed to be? _____

Respond:

Day 9 _____ / Date _____

Read:

Knowing God Through Love

“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. 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. 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.” **1 John 4:7-12**

Reflect:

Based on these verses, what is the biblical meaning of love?

What happens to our efforts to love each other if those efforts aren't connected to Jesus' love for us?

How willing are you to make loving sacrifices in your relationships with others right now?

What does your willingness to do so show about the way you see and define love?

Respond:

Day 10 _____ / Date _____

Read:

Relating In Love To God

“We know that we live in him and he in us, because 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 him and he in God. 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 him. ¹⁷ In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. 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. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.” **1 John 4:13-21**

Reflect:

What reasons do these verses give us for why we should practice godly love?

What do these verses reveal about the way we are to relate to God and others in love?

Jesus brought together the two commands to love God (Deut. 6:5) and to love one’s neighbor (Lev. 19:18) (see Mark 12:28-31)

Respond:

Day 11 _____ / Date _____

Read:

True Love

“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. ² This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. ³ This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. ⁶ This is the one who came by water and blood--Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷ For there are three that testify: ⁸ the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. ⁹ We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son.”

1 John 5:1-9 (NIV)

Reflect:

Why is loving people one of the clearest indicators of a person's love for God?

Another indicator John mentions of a person's love for God is obedience to His commands. Why is it important to remember that God's commands are not burdensome?

How does your obedience to God affect your love for others?

According to this passage, what is the victory that has conquered the world?

In your own words, how are faith, love, and obedience intertwined?

Respond:

Day 12 _____ / Date _____

Read:

KNOW THAT YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

“Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴ This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of him. ¹⁶ If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that he should pray about that. ¹⁷ All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death. ¹⁸ We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. ¹⁹ We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. ²⁰ We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true--even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. ²¹ Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.” **1 John 5:10-31 (NIV)**

Reflect:

What did John say would happen when we pray on behalf of others who have fallen into sin?

Why do you think God expects us to hold one another accountable for our sins?

In what ways is the body of Christ strengthened through this process?

Why is it necessary that we eliminate sin from our lives, even though our relationship with God is rooted in His grace?

Respond:

Lessons From 1 John:

- ✓ We are Invited into close fellowship with God the Father, Jesus & all believers
1 John 1:1-4
- ✓ Joy comes from fellowship with God and His family. **1 John 1:4**
- ✓ God is light and there is no darkness in Him. He is always good. **1 John 1:5**
- ✓ True fellowship walks in God's light and purifies us from sin. **1 John 1:7**
- ✓ Our responsibility is to confess our sins. God is the one who is faithful and will forgive and purify us. **1 John 1:9**
- ✓ We are called to walk in the light but when we do sin, we have Jesus, the righteous one who is our defense because He has atoned for our sins.
1 John 2:1-2
- ✓ Rejoice in the truth that God showers His love on us by making us His children. **1 John 3:1**
- ✓ Let us love with words, action, and truth. Love is tangible. **1 John 3:18-20**
- ✓ Greater is He that is in us than he who is in the world. **1 John 4:4**
- ✓ God sent His son so that we may love through Him. **1 John 4:9**
- ✓ God loved us first and sent His Son to be our substitute sacrifice for our sins.
1 John 4:10
- ✓ Since God loved us, we ought to love one another. **1 John 4:11**
- ✓ We can have confidence that we are in God if we love like Him. **1 John 4:16-17**
- ✓ There is no fear in love. Perfect love drives out fear. **1 John 4:18-19**
- ✓ It isn't a burden to obey God if we love Him. **1 John 5:3**
- ✓ If we have Jesus, we have life. **1 John 5:12**
- ✓ We can know we have eternal life if we know Jesus. **1 John 5:13**
- ✓ Keep away from any idol, anything that is a substitute for God. **1 John 5:21**

Giving Thanks

Devotional Journal

“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever. Let all Israel repeat: ‘His faithful love endures forever.’ Let Aaron’s descendants, the priests, repeat: ‘His faithful love endures forever.’ Let all who fear the LORD repeat: ‘His faithful love endures forever.’ In my distress I prayed to the LORD, and the LORD answered me and set me free. The LORD is for me, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me? Yes, the LORD is for me; he will help me. I will look in triumph at those who hate me. It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in people.” **Psalm 118:1-8 (NLT)**

Start by writing the top ten things that you are most thankful for.

Date

“The prayer power has never been tried to its full capacity...if we want to see mighty wonders of divine power and grace wrought in the place of weakness, failure and disappointment, let us answer God's standing challenge, “Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not.” ~ J. Hudson Taylor¹

Our Purpose And Vision

When you come to Cornerstone, you will find a contemporary style of music with words that direct our hearts to celebration and **WORSHIP** our great God and Savior. You will hear relevant teachings from God's Word with a life application every Sunday. As we **CONNECT** with each other, it is our vision to go beyond the superficial and encourage each other to take our next right step with God. It is our aspiration to help people **GROW** into maturity through personal application of God's Word. We desire to lead the way with selfless generosity and **SERVE** as a way of life. It is our purpose to **SHARE** God's message of forgiveness through Jesus Christ and help people find and follow Jesus.

Service Times:

On Campus Sunday Worship Service: 9:15 & 11:00AM

Online Sunday Service: 9:15AM > <https://www.youtube.com/c/cornerstonepoway>

Weekly Sermon Notes> <https://www.cornerstonepoway.com/sermons>

Sermon Notes Bible Study, Tuesdays 6:00-7:00PM (In-Person & online Zoom)

Link> <https://zoom.us/join>. Meeting ID: 84983852091, Password: 355924

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