

FIRST JOHN 5:1-5

“We love God and keep his commandments”

17 & 20 May 2024

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Discourse structure of 1 John

Part 1: Our Fellowship with God 1.1 – 2.17

Part 2: Our Adversaries 2.18 – 3.18

Part 3: Our Christian Faith 3.19 – 5.5

VIII. We Have Assurance 3.19-24

IX. We have God’s Spirit 4:1-6

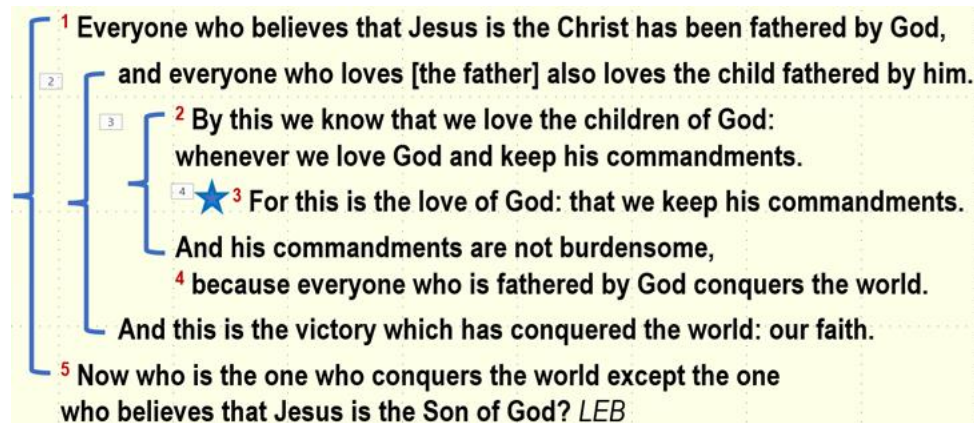
X. We Have God’s Love 4.7-12

XI. We Have the Savior 4.13-21

XII. We have the Christ 5.1-5

Part 4: Our Confidence with God 5.6-21

1 John 5:1-5, Chiastic structure



¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been fathered by God,
and everyone who loves [the father] also loves the child fathered by him.
² By this we know that we love the children of God:
whenever we love God and keep his commandments.
³ For this is the love of God: that we keep his commandments.
And his commandments are not burdensome,
⁴ because everyone who is fathered by God conquers the world.
And this is the victory which has conquered the world: our faith.
⁵ Now who is the one who conquers the world except the one
who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:1

¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been fathered by God. *LEB*

Who is the Christ (=Messiah)? — 7 views:

- The Christ has not yet come.
- The Christ came but is not human.
- The Christ has come and is Jesus.
- Christ is Jesus' last name.
- There are many Christs.
- There are no Christs.

'Fathered by God'

- Loved by God
- Adopted by God
- Made alive by God
- Provided for by God
- Protected by God
- Instructed by God
- Inheritance from God.

1 John 5:5

¹⁴ Now who is the one who conquers the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? *LEB*

What does it mean to conquer the world?

- Free from spiritual oppression.
- Free from cultural trends and obsessions.
- Free from addictions and perverse desires.
- Free from fear false teachers, their doctrines, and their authority.

What is the world?

- Fallen spirits who dictate godless ideas and actions to pagan world leaders.
- Religions, philosophies and ideologies.
- False teachers who deny that the human Jesus is the divine Christ.
- Political officials, administrators, courts, military and police officers.
- Popular media influencers, politically-correct ideas, fashions and memes.

1 John 5:1b

... and everyone who loves [the father] also loves the child fathered by him. *LEB*

Who is the child?

- [the father] = 'the begetter'.
- General principle: any father's child.
- Jesus whom the Father 'begot'? Matt 1:20 = same Greek verb (*gennáō*).
- All Christian believers? John 1:13 (*gennáō*).

1 John 5:4b

And this is the victory which has conquered the world: our faith. *LEB*

What is 'our faith'

- Contemporary Christian faith?
- Historical Christianity?
- A theistic worldview?
- Confident trust in Jesus' promises?
- That the human Jesus = the divine Christ?

1 John 5:2

² By this we know that we love the children of God: whenever we love God and keep his commandments. *LEB*

- To know: by experience.
- Children of God: See verse 1a.
- Hendiadys: When two verbs describe the same thing: 'We show our love for God by obeying his commands.'

1 John 5:3a

³ For this is the love of God: that we keep his commandments. *LEB*

- Love of God: His love for us? Our love for him? Godly love towards others?
- Keep: Obey, continuous present tense.
- Commandments: Old testament contains 613 commands. Jesus gave more than 200 commands (imperatives or ideals).

Seven commands for all Christians

1. Repent and believe! (Mark 1:15).
2. Love! (Mk 12:30; 12:31; Jn 13:34; Lk 6:27).
3. Pray! (Matt. 6:9).
4. Remember! (Luke 22:16).
5. Forgive! (Luke 6:37).
6. Give! (Luke 6:38).
7. Baptize! (Matt. 28:19).

1 John 5:3b-4a

³ And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴ because everyone who is fathered by God conquers the world. *LEB*

- His: Whose? (Acts 15:10. 'heavy yoke')
- not burdensome: Light yoke. (Matt 11:30)
- Everyone: You and I, too.
- Is fathered: Perfect tense = lasting effect.
- Conquers: Continual present tense.

Assignment: Read **5:6-13** three times in different versions (www.netbible.org).