

“Let us teach the New Testament!”

# First Epistle of John

**Lesson 14, 1 John 5:14-17**

1john.currah.download September 2019

## Introduction

In this fourteenth of 15 lessons on the New Testament Book of 1 John, we shall deal with these ten topics:

1. 1 John 5:14-17 in the *English Standard Version* (2016)
2. 1 John 5:14-17 SBL *Greek NT* (2010) with English interlinear
3. Greek textual variants in 1 John 5:14-17
4. Parallels between 1 John 5:14-17 and the Gospel of John
5. Analytical outline of 1 John 5:14-17
6. Important vocabulary and historical meanings
7. Greek grammar: Propositions and noun cases
8. Teachable points from 1 John 5:14-17
9. An historical Christian doctrine: The sin leading to death
10. Practical applications of 1 John 5:14-17 for Christians

## 1. The *English Standard Version* (2016) text of 1 John 5:14-17

<sup>14</sup> And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

<sup>16</sup> If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. <sup>17</sup> All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

## 2. Interlinear Greek-English Text of 1 John 5:14-17

<sup>14</sup> And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if anything we ask  
<sup>14</sup> καὶ αὕτη ἐστὶν ἡ παρρησία ἣν ἔχομεν πρὸς αὐτόν, ὅτι ἐάν τι αἰτώμεθα  
per the will his he-hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that he hears us  
κατὰ τὸ θέλημα αὐτοῦ ἀκούει ἡμῶν. <sup>15</sup> καὶ ἐὰν οἶδαμεν ὅτι ἀκούει ἡμῶν  
what ever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.  
ὃ ἐὰν αἰτώμεθα, οἶδαμεν ὅτι ἔχομεν τὰ αἰτήματα ἃ ἠτήκαμεν ἀπ' αὐτοῦ.  
<sup>16</sup> If any sees the brother his sinning sin not unto death,  
<sup>16</sup> ἐάν τις ἴδῃ τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ ἁμαρτάνοντα ἁμαρτίαν μὴ πρὸς θάνατον,  
he shall ask, and will give to him life —to those sinning not unto death.  
αἰτήσῃ, καὶ δώσει αὐτῷ ζωὴν, τοῖς ἁμαρτάνουσιν μὴ πρὸς θάνατον.  
Is sin unto death; not about that I say that one should pray.  
ἔστιν ἁμαρτία πρὸς θάνατον· οὐ περὶ ἐκείνης λέγω ἵνα ἐρωτήσῃ.  
<sup>17</sup> All wrongdoing sin is, but is sin not unto death.  
<sup>17</sup> πᾶσα ἀδικία ἁμαρτία ἐστίν, καὶ ἔστιν ἁμαρτία οὐ πρὸς θάνατον.

## 3. Manuscript Variants in 1 John 5:14-17

**5:14** From the 5<sup>th</sup> century, a few manuscripts replace “we have” with “let us have.”

From the 5<sup>th</sup> century, some manuscripts replace “we ask anything” with “whatever we ask.”

In the 5<sup>th</sup> century, one manuscript replaced “his will” with “his name.”

**5:15** From the 5<sup>th</sup> century, some manuscripts read, “with him” (preposition *para* + genitive) instead of “from him” (preposition *apo* + genitive). One 12<sup>th</sup> century manuscript reads “(at) him” (pronoun in the dative case with no preposition).

**5:16** One 5<sup>th</sup> century manuscript altered “those who commit sins” to read, “those who do not commit sins.”

Download from [1john.currah.download](http://1john.currah.download) a more complete list of textual variants.

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4. Parallels between 1 John 5:14-17 and the Gospel of John

| 1 John   | Gospel of John  |
|--|---|
| If we ask anything according to his will he hears ( <i>akouei</i> ) us. 5:14 | If anyone ... does his will, God listens ( <i>akouei</i> ) to him. 9:31 |
| We have the requests that we have asked of him. 5:15                         | Ask, and you will receive. 6:24   |
| There is sin that leads to death 5:16  | You will die in your sin. 8:21  |
| There is sin that does not lead to death. 5:17                               | This illness does not lead to death. 11:4                               |

5. Analytical outline for preachers, teachers and groups leaders.

**Part 4: The Source of Our Confidence 5.6-21**

**XIV. Answered prayers 5.14-17**

**A. We pray to God with confidence 5.14-15**

1. God hears us 5.14
  - a. We make requests
  - b. Knowing his will
2. God answers our requests 5.15

**B. We pray for Christians who sin 5.16a**

1. When we see them sin
2. We pray for them
3. God gives them life

**C. We discern two kinds of sin 5.16b-17**

1. Sin that leads to death 5.16b
  - a. To deny the Christ, the Son of God (2:22)
  - b. To hate Christians (3.14)
2. Sins that do not lead to death 5.17

Christians enjoy an amazing power from God to help each other gain victory over their personal sins, by praying with confidence, one for another, in the will of God.

## 6. Important terms and their historical meanings in 1 John 5:14-17

Bauer, Danker, Arndt and Gingrich. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature*, Third Edition. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press (2001). ISBN 0226039331

### **leading to** πρὸς *pros*

**3** with accusative [nouns] marker of movement or orientation toward ... something...  
[Cp.] this disease is not of the kind that will lead to death [J] 11:4. Cp. [sin leading to death] 1J 5:16f.

### **toward** πρὸς *pros*

**3** with accusative [nouns] marker of movement or orientation toward someone...  
friendly to, toward, with, before [to have confidence before God] 1J 3:21; cp. 5:14.

## 7. Greek grammar of 1 John 5:14-17. Prepositions & Noun Cases

Prepositions generally modify verbs and govern substantives (nouns, participles and articular infinitives). Translation of a preposition depends (**a**) on its function in a sentence, and (**b**) on the nature (person, thing, or place) and on the case (genitive, dative or accusative) of the substantive(s) that it governs. Thus, in 1 John 5:14-17 the preposition πρὸς (*pros*) governs “him” (a person) and “death”, both in the accusative case.

Download from 1john.currah.download a more complete description of prepositions and cases.

## 8. Teachable points from 1 John 5:14-17

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you teachable points from the passage. For example:

### Confidence before God

1. When he appears 2.28
2. If our heart does not condemn us 3.21
3. For the day of judgment 4.17
4. If we ask anything according to his will 5.14

### Receive from God by prayer

1. Because we keep his commandments 3.22
2. If we ask anything according to his will 5.14
3. We know that he hears us in whatever we ask 5.15
4. He shall ask, and God will give him life 5.16

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### Sin leading to death

1. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar 1.10
2. He who denies the Father and the Son 2.22
3. Whoever does not love abides in death 3.14
4. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar 5.10

### Sin not leading to death

1. The works of the flesh Galatians 5.19
2. Filthy, foolish talk or crude joking Ephesians 5.4
3. Pleasing people Ephesians 6.6
4. Idols 1 John 5.21

Instead of reading or talking about all of these points, have learners form tiny groups. Have each group read a few verses of 1 John 5:14-17, looking for the topic. It is not necessary to find or to report all of the items. After a few minutes, ask someone in each tiny group to tell two or three items that the group members found. Thank all for their cooperation.

## 9. An historical Christian doctrine: Sin Leading to Death

*Sin leading to death.* Adam's sin leads to corporal death for everyone. Each one's own sin leads to everlasting death, unless it be forgiven.

Jesus Christ died to take away sins. He rose back to life and offers eternal life to sinners.

God gives everlasting life to those who put their trust in Jesus Christ. God forgives those who confess their sins.

The sin that leads to death is to deny that Jesus is the Son of God. Sins that do not lead to death include Christians' wrong deeds and bad habits.

## 10. Practical application of 1 John 5:14-17 for Christians

After someone or several have read or recited 1 John 5:14-17 in small gatherings of learners, pose queries such as these, and let anyone reply:

- What have you learnt from this passage about God?
- What have you learnt from this passage about Jesus?
- What have you learnt from this passage about sin?
- What have you learnt from this passage about prayer?

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Whilst preaching, teaching or leading, recommend ways in which to apply the passage, putting it into practice. For example:

- Exhort Christians to stop criticizing and slandering one another, and to start praying for them to experience new life.
- Form small groups of women and girls, and separate groups of men and boys. Let them confess their sins and pray for each other.
- Coach house church shepherds in how to do the same with their little congregations.
- Urge non-believers to stop sinning against God by their unbelief, and to confess before others that Jesus is the Son of God.

### Conclusion

- Download documents for this lesson at [1john.currah.download](http://1john.currah.download).
- Read five times 1 John 5:18-21 before you view the next video lesson.
- Please, leave comments or queries, or write to me at the download site. I shall try to reply to you by email or in a video.