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

 ΙX. 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**

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**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 burden-some, **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).