FIRST JOHN 5:18-21  
“This is the True God”  
06 & 09 June 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

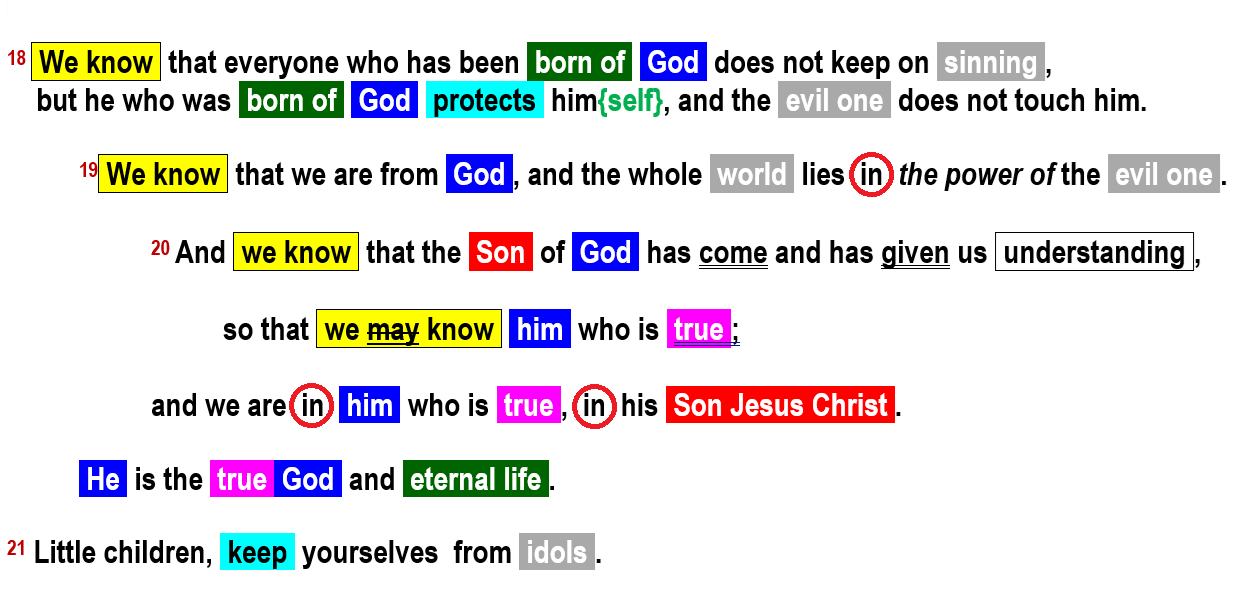
Part 3: Our Christian Faith 3.19 – 5.5

Part 4: Our Confidence with God 5.6-21

XIII. God’s Testimony 5.6-13

XΙV. Answered prayers 5.14-17

**XV. Reasonable conclusions 5.18-21**

**1 John 5:18-21, Chiastic structure**

**1 John 5:18a**

18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, … *NIV*

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| ● We know:  ● Born:  ● Keep on:  ● Sinning: | First of four ‘conclusions’. To know = “to see” (*oida*).  New start, supernatural new life.  Continuous tense. We change!  In 1st John, sinning = denying that the human Jesus is the divine Christ = ‘Son of God’. |

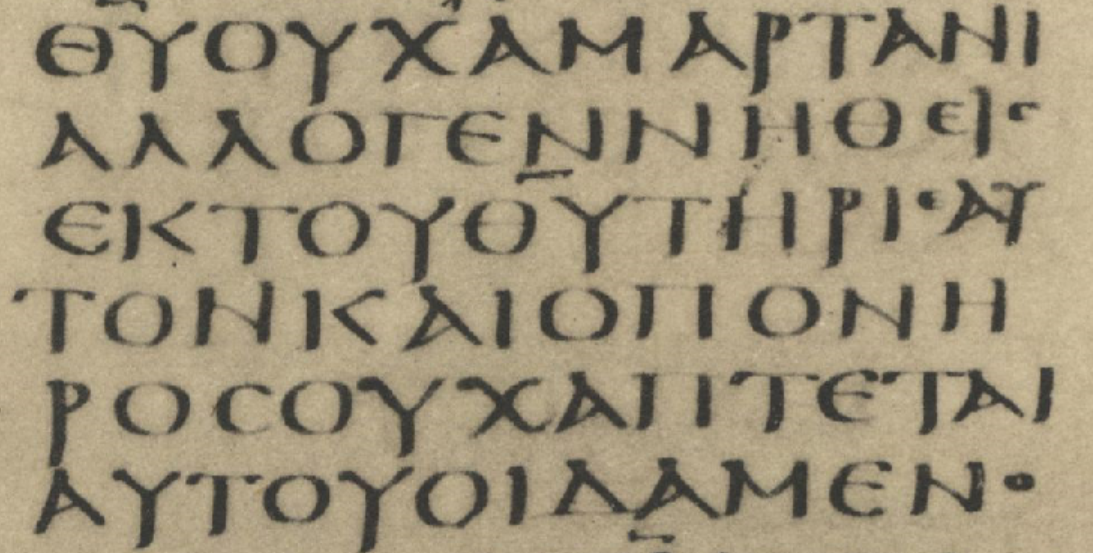
**1 John 5:18b**

We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, … *NIV*

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| ● Him:  ● Born:  ● Protect:  ● Evil:  ● Touch: | Two manuscripts and Latin read ‘him’, the rest: ‘himself’.  Jesus 🡺 ‘him’. Believer🡺 ‘himself’.  Keeps (safe).  “The” + adjective 🡺 noun.  ‘Keep a hold on.’ Continuous tense. Middle voice = ‘for himself’. |

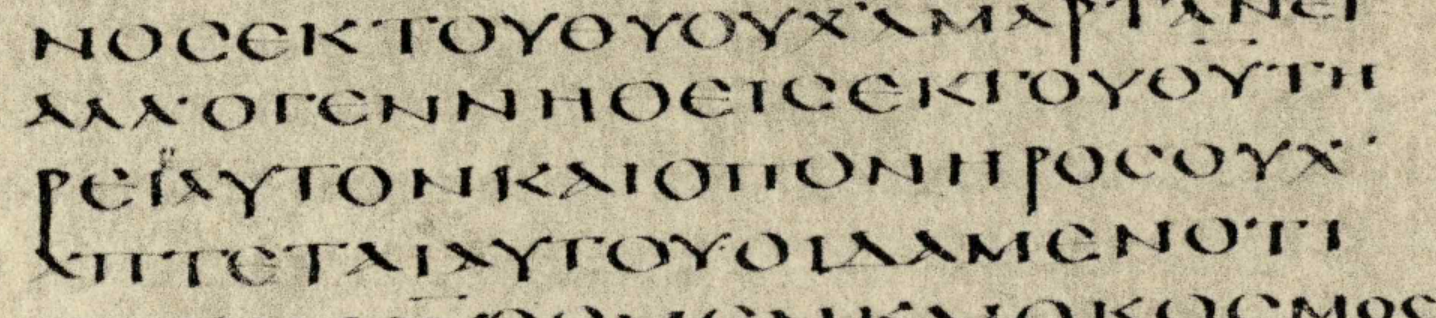
**Keeps him? Or keeps himself?**

**Codex Sinaiticus**, 4th century: ⲈAΥΤΟΝ





**Codex Alexandrinus**, 5th century ⲀΥΤΟΝ



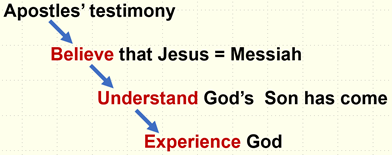


**1 John 5:19**

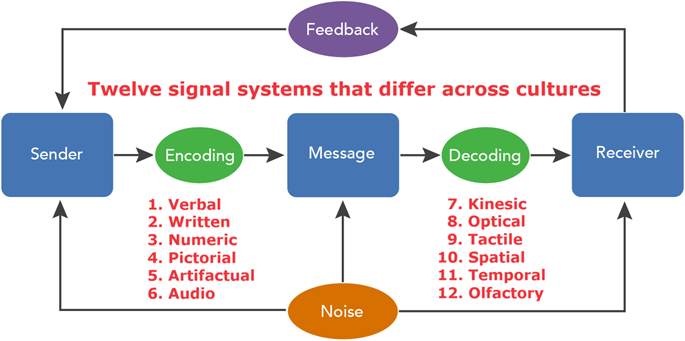
19 We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in *the power of* the evil one

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| ● Know:  ● From:  ● World:  ● Lies in:  ● Evil: | Second ‘know’ = ‘see’ factual know.  Origin = reborn (verse 18).  Creation, human system.  Under domination  Pernicious: active, intentional evil. |

**1 John 5:20a**

20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true…

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| ● Know:  ● Son:  ● Understanding:  ● Know:  ● True: | Third ‘know’ = ‘see’ factual know.  Messianic title. Jesus = the Christ.  Mind, intelligence, thinking. “Love the Lord with your … mind” Mk 12:30  Fourth know = by experience (*gnosko*).  Contrast idols and religions. |

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“The Communication Process”   
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**1 John 5:20b**

… and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ.

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| ● In:  ● Him:  ● True: | En = a relational particle with no specific meaning.  To be ‘en’ a person = to be in relation with, to belong to.  God (5:19)? Or his Son (5:20)?  The unique, invisible Creator?  Or the crucified, risen Messiah/Christ? |
| ●We:  ● Son:  ● Jesus:  ● Christ: | (a) Jesus’ apostles,  (b) Ephesian Christians,  (c) Christian believers  Psa 2:7; Mk 1:11; Jn 1:14; Hb 1:2.  Human name: Joshua in Hebrew, Iésous in Greek, Jesus in English.  Divine title: the final prophet, priest & king. |

**1 John 5:20c**

… He is the true God and eternal life.

Jesus Christ “is” (In 1 John; John 1):

|  |  |
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| ● Word of life  ● True Light  ● Human flesh  ● Only Son  ● The Christ  ● Lamb of God | ● Word of life  ● True Light  ● Human flesh  ● Only Son  ● The Christ  ● Lamb of God |

View 99 NAMES OF JESUS <https://youtu.be/6oLjc-1dOmU> at double speed.

**1 John 5:201**

21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

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| ● Childen:  ● Keep:  ● Yourselves:  ● Idols: | Susceptible to deceit.  Keep away from, be on your guard.  Plural = help each other.   1. Roman & Greek gods 2. Roman emperor’s image 3. Local sprites and deities 4. Religions and philosophies 5. Ourselves or our possessions |

Governor Pliny (the Younger), in *Epistles* 10.96, wrote to Emperor Trajan in about AD 110:

“I have asked them if they were Christians. If they confessed, I asked them a second and third time, threatening them with punishment. If they persisted, I commanded them to be led away for punishment. There was no doubt that pertinacious and inflexible obstinacy ought to be punished, regardless of their confession. Some Roman citizens afflicted with a similar insanity were sent to Rome.”