

1 John 5 Synecdoche

- Phonetic - se' - nek - da - kēy.
- Definition - a figure of speech in which a part is made to represent the whole or vice versa.
- from Greek syn- ("together") and "ekdochē" ("interpretation")
- Ex. - "a new set of wheels"
- 1 John 5:1 - Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God.
- Is "believes" the whole, or a part of a whole?
- Acts 19:2-5 - **2** and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you **believed**?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." **3** So Paul asked, "Then what **baptism** did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. **4** Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to **believe** in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." **5** On hearing this, they were **baptized** in the name of the Lord Jesus.

1 John 5:1-5

- **1** Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God. Whoever loves the Father also loves the child who is born of him.
- **2** By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep his commandments.
- **3** For this is loving God, that we keep his commandments. His commandments are not grievous.
- **4** For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world: your faith.
- **5** Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:6-12

- 6 This is he who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.
- 7 For there are three who testify:
- 8 the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three agree as one.
- 9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is God's testimony which he has testified concerning his Son.
- 10 He who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. He who doesn't believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son.
- 11 The testimony is this, that God gave to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.
- 12 He who has the Son has the life. He who doesn't have God's Son doesn't have the life.

Notes - 1 John 5:6-12

- 6 This is he who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and the blood. ...
 - Jesus began his earthly ministry with his immersion by John in water. (Luke 3:21-22; John 1:29-34, 35-42)
 - It can be seen to continue whenever anyone is born of God today.
- 6 This is he who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and the blood. ...
 - Jesus' earthly ministry ended with his shedding of blood and death on the cross, and, the night before his death, at the last supper (beginning of Lord's Supper), Jesus said, "for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the remission of sins." (Matthew 26:28)

- 6 This is he who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and the blood. ...
 - John is stating a truth that endures; at the same time, he is striking at the heart of Gnostic Cerentian heresy which claims that Jesus became a spiritual being at his baptism but ceased to be a spiritual being at his death.
- 6 ... It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.
 - John 1:32-34 - ... “I have seen the Spirit descending like a dove out of heaven, and it remained on him.
 - Luke 3:21-22 - ... the Holy Spirit descended in a bodily form like a dove on him; and a voice came out of the sky, saying “You are my beloved Son. In you I am well pleased.”
- 6 ... It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.
 - Acts 5:32 - We are His witnesses of these things; and so also is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”
- 7 *For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. 8 And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one. (NKJV)*
 - *This variation has been included in some translations due to pressure from Catholicism. It is in the Latin Vulgate but not in any Greek manuscript prior to the 15th-16th century.*
- 7 For there are three who testify: 8 the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three agree as one.
 - The present tense indicates that the three were giving testimony when John wrote, and continually thereafter.
- 7 For there are three who testify: 8 the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three agree as one.

- They have one purpose and one objective – that of confirming that Jesus is the Messiah, that he did come in the flesh, and that he is our redeemer.
- 7 For there are three who testify: 8 the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three agree as one.
 - The grand design of John’s affirmation is really two-fold.
 - First, he wishes to contradict Gnostic error and then present the Holy Spirit to confirm the truthfulness of his testimony.
- 7 For there are three who testify: 8 the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three agree as one.
 - Second, he wants to stabilize the faith of “the children of God.” They must keep their faith in the reality of the redemptive mission the Messiah began at His baptismal consecration and then consummated in His sacrificial atonement on the cross, the faith that overcomes the world.
- 9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is God’s testimony which he has testified concerning his Son.
 - witness (*marturia*) - evidence given, testimony.
 - The evidence given by the apostles will stand because they were eye-witnesses and ear-witnesses, and they were with him for 3 years.
 - John 20:30-31; 2 Peter 1:16-19
- 9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is God’s testimony which he has testified concerning his Son.
 - The evidence given by the apostles is compelling
 - Heb. 2:3-4
 - The testimony given by God is greater!
 - Prophecy concerning Jesus (300+)

— Deut. 18:15-19; John 5:39; Luke 24:26-27, 44-47;

- **9** If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is God's testimony which he has testified concerning his Son.
 - God's personal testimony - Matt. 3:17; 17:5;
 - 2 Peter 1:16-21
- **10** He who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. ...
 - Romans 8:16 - The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God;
 - Galatians 4:6 - And because you are children, God sent out the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!"
- **10** He who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. ...
 - Ephesians 1:13-14 - **13** In him you also, having heard the word of the truth, the Good News of your salvation—in whom, having also believed, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is a pledge of our inheritance, to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of his glory.
- **10** He who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. ...
 - The Holy Spirit produces fruit (Gal. 5:22-23), observable fruit.
 - The practical effect of receiving the testimony, of believing, of being born of God, of keeping his commandments, of loving one another, is that the Way of Christ is shown in those who walk in the light. (Remember 5:1-5)
- **10** ... He who doesn't believe God ...
 - Hebrews 6:17-18 **17** In this way God, being determined to show more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the immutability of his counsel, interposed with an oath; **18** that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to **lie**, we may have a strong encouragement, who have fled for refuge to take hold of the hope set before us.

- 10 ... He who doesn't believe God ...
 - Number 23:19 - God is not a man, that he should **lie**, nor a son of man, that he should repent. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not make it good?
 - Titus 1:2 - in hope of eternal life, which God, who can't **lie**, promised before time began;
- 10 ... He who doesn't believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son.
 - God's testimony is greater, and is certain and immutable.
 - To reject the testimony of God is to call him a liar!
- 11 The testimony is this, that God gave to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.
 - 1) "God has given (and continues to give) to us eternal life."
 - 2) "This life is in his Son."
 - Eternal can refer to either quality of life or quantity of life. Certainly the assurance of an eternal inheritance improves the quality of our lives here.
 - Eternal life can be forfeited, which will be seen when we reach 1 John 5:16 ("sin leading to death"). Then it would not matter whether the quality or quantity of eternal is being considered.
- 12 He who has the Son has the life. He who doesn't have God's Son doesn't have the life.
 - To "have" the Son incorporates all that John stated in the beginning of this chapter: believes, born of God, loves, keeps ..., overcomes.
 - 1 John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

- The negation of having God's Son, including the neglect or absence of any of the things which make for walking in the light, has been a frequent warning throughout 1 John.

1 John 5:13-21

- **13** These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.
- **14** This is the boldness which we have toward him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us.
- **15** And if we know that he listens to us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions which we have asked of him.
- **16** If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life for those who sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death. I don't say that he should make a request concerning this.
- **17** All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death.
- **18** We know that whoever is born of God doesn't sin, but he who was born of God keeps himself, and the evil one doesn't touch him.
- **19** We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.
- **20** We know that the Son of God has come, and has given us an understanding, that we know him who is true, and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.
- **21** Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

Notes – 1 John 5:13-21

- **13** These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may

continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

- 1 John 1:4 - And we write these things to you, that our (*your*) joy may be fulfilled.
- The two reasons given are one: John and his readers will have joy in the assurance of eternal life.
- know (*eidō*) – to have a settled knowledge.
- Know is used 36 times in 1 John. 17 times the word is *eidō*. 19 times it is *ginōskō*. There are shades of meaning that are not obvious from a lexical definition.
- One may be acquainted with facts, but nothing more.
- The other is not only acquainted with the facts, but also understanding of what those facts mean. It is what I have called “*settled knowledge*”. That is the word John has been inspired to use in this verse and several following verses.
- Philippians 4:7 - And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.
 - Perhaps these words written by Paul will convey some of the sense of “settled knowledge”.
- 13 ... and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.
 - 1 John 5:4b - This is the victory that has overcome the world: your faith.
 - John wants us to have assurance of eternal life, and wants us to overcome the world.
 - It is necessary to keep on believing (and all that believing encompasses) in order to do so.
 - How many times has John said “remain” or “abide”? (I count 22!)
- In rapidly approaching the end of his epistle, John has a few words on the subject of prayer.

- This is not the first time he has broached this subject, for he has already mentioned...
 - The value of confessing our sins, which is done in prayer – 1 John 1:9
 - Our Advocate in prayer, Jesus Christ the righteous – 1 John 2:1
 - One reason why we receive what we ask in prayer – 1 John 3:22
- In his final words on this subject, John does two things:
 - Expands upon a theme in prayer already introduced (praying with confidence)
 - Brings in another theme in prayer that is harmony with the tone throughout his epistle (praying with compassion, consistent with his teachings on brotherly love)
- **14** This is the boldness which we have toward him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us. **15** And if we know that he listens to us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions which we have asked of him.
 - boldness (*parrhēsia*) – assurance, confidence.
 - The idea is also that of speaking openly, plainly, not holding anything back,
- **14** This is the boldness which we have toward him, ...
 - 1 John 2:28 – boldness at his appearing
 - 1 John 3:21 – boldness if hearts don't condemn
 - 1 John 4:17 – boldness in the day of judgement
 - 1 John 5:14 – boldness in prayer
 - Eph. 3:12 - in whom we have boldness and access in confidence through our faith in him.
 - Heb. 3:6 – confidence – better house

- Heb. 4:16 – draw near with boldness to the throne of grace (because of our great High Priest)
- 1 John 4:17 – boldness in the day of judgement
- Heb. 10:19 - Having therefore, brothers, boldness to enter into the holy place by the blood of Jesus,
- PRAYING WITH CONFIDENCE (14-15)
 - Requires asking according to God’s will
 - Requires keeping God’s commandments
 - Requires remaining in Jesus, and His word remaining in us
- PRAYING WITH COMPASSION (16-17)
 - Praying for a brother
 - For sin not unto death
 - God will give him life
- PRAYING WITH CONFIDENCE (14-15)
 - **Requires asking according to God’s will.**
 - 1 John 5:14-15 - **14** This is the **boldness** which we have toward him, that, if we ask anything **according to his will**, he listens to us. **15** And if we know that he listens to us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions which we have asked of him.
- Confidence in prayer is not based upon some assumption that we have "carte blanche" in regards to prayer.
 - (Carte Blanche – French; literally, blank check)
 - Some may improperly conclude that we do from Jesus’ statement in John 14:13-14
 - But even Jesus’ own example illustrates that answer to prayer depends

upon whether or not it is in harmony with God's will

- Matt. 26:39,42
- Paul learned this same lesson when he prayed about his "thorn in the flesh" – 2 Cor. 12:7-9
- However, the more we learn God's revealed will (the Word of God)...
 - The more likely we will pray according to His will
 - The greater confidence we can have that our prayers will be answered accordingly
- 14 ... that, if we ask anything according to his will, ...
 - Mark 11:24 - Therefore I tell you, all things whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you have received them, and you shall have them.
 - James 4:3 - You ask, and don't receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.
 - 1 John 3:22 - and whatever we ask, we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do the things that are pleasing in his sight.
 - Three essentials that John repeats often are: faith, obedience, and love. All three are ingredients for a good prayer life.
 - Daniel 3:17-18 - 17 If it happens, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace; and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up."
 - Luke 22:41-44 - 41 He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and he knelt down and prayed, 42 saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." .. 44 Being in agony he prayed more earnestly. His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.
 - The previous two scriptures give us great examples, of those whose focus was on God's will and therefore acceptance of God's will without

condition.

- Some other thoughts on prayer.
 - Matt. 6:7-8 - **7** In praying, don't use vain repetitions, as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their much speaking.
8 Therefore don't be like them, for your Father knows what things you need, before you ask him.
 - Jesus then proceeds to teach about prayer.
 - Luke 18:1-5 - **1** He also spoke a parable to them that they must always pray, and not give up, **2** saying, "There was a judge in a certain city who didn't fear God, and didn't respect man. ... **4** He wouldn't for a while, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God, nor respect man, **5** yet because this widow bothers me, I will defend her, or else she will wear me out ...'"
 - Heb. 4:16 - Let's therefore draw near with boldness to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace for help in time of need.
- PRAYING WITH CONFIDENCE
 - **Requires keeping God's commandments**
 - This was stressed in 1 John 3:22
 - Even if we are asking something that would normally be within God's will ...
 - If we are not keeping His commandments ...
 - ... can we really expect God to favorably answer our prayers?
 - As Peter quoted from the Proverbs: "For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And his ears are open to their prayers..." – 1 Peter 3:12
 - The righteous "do the things that are pleasing in His sight" - 1 John 3:22

— “we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, even as he commanded” – 1 John 3:23

— **Requires remaining in Jesus, and His word remaining in us**

— This was taught by Jesus Himself, as recorded by John in John 15:7

— This may also help to clarify any misunderstanding from taking John 14:13-14 in isolation from its context.

— Confidence in prayer depends upon keeping the commandments, but keeping the commandments is the key to remaining in Jesus! - 1 John 3:24

— Confidence in prayer depends upon asking according to God’s will, but if Jesus' words remain in us, that will help us to know God's will.

● PRAYING WITH COMPASSION (16-17)

— **16** If anyone sees his **brother** sinning a sin not leading to death, he shall **ask**, and God will give him **life** for those who sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death. I don’t say that he should make a request concerning this. **17** All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death.

— Too often sin is hidden. When it is evident that a brother is troubled with sin, then love means that we will pray for the brother or sister. (Remember 5:1-2.)

— James 5:19-20 - **19** Brothers, if any among you wanders from the truth and someone turns him back, **20** let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

— What could be more certain of being “according to his will” than such a prayer?

— What is sin leading to death?

— Matt. 12:31 "Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be

forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven.

- Heb. 10:26-27 - **26** For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, **27** but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.
- Heb. 10:29 How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?
- 1 John 1:6-7 - **6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; **7** but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.
- This may be what John has in mind.

- PRAYING WITH COMPASSION (16-17)

- **For a brother**
- John has stressed "brotherly love" throughout 1 John
- He has told us that we "ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" – 1 John 3:16
- He has said that if "one sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?" - 1 John 3:17
- Certainly, we should be willing and ready to pray for our brethren, especially when we see them...
- **Sinning a sin not leading to death**
 - a difficult passage that raises several questions...
 - Does the present tense of the verb "sinning" necessarily imply that the brother is still engaged in the sin when we are to pray for him?

- What is the "sin not unto death" versus the "sin unto death"?
 - What is meant that "He will give him life"?
- Whatever conclusions we may draw should be in harmony with the rest of the scriptures, and with other principles revealed in the scriptures, just as we do not draw conclusions about praying with confidence based upon John 14:13-14 alone.
 - Some considerations are:
 - The present tense of the verb (sinning) in Greek can describe action that is either one-time or continuing.
 - Remember that in 1 John 3 the verb "to sin" is to be considered as "does not practice sin continually" or "does not make a career of sin".
 - The words "If anyone sees his brother sinning" strongly connotes that the brother is in a present and continuing state of sin.
 - The difference between "a sin which does not lead to death" and "a sin leading to death"...
 - 1 John 5:17a, "all unrighteousness is sin", therefore no sin is to be taken lightly
 - But there is sin "not leading to death"
 - Sin Not Leading to Death
 - Sin which does not progress to the point in which one experiences spiritual death, or separation from God
 - James 1:15 - Then the lust, when it has conceived, bears sin; and the sin, when it is full grown, produces death.
 - Sin Not Leading to Death
 - Sin which does not produce (lead to) death would therefore be sin "repented of"
 - Sin "leading to death", producing spiritual death and separation

from God would be sin "unrepented of"

- We cannot expect God to forgive one who refuses to repent
- 1 John 5:16 - "I do not say that he should make request concerning this."

— God Will Give Him Life

- spiritual life - forgiveness
- Which is a crucial element of the "eternal life" to which John has referred throughout this epistle

— The promise offered in 1Jn 1:9 to the child of God who penitently confesses his own sin in prayer is extended in 1John 5:16 to the penitent brother when prayer is made on his behalf by another member of the family of God

● 14 ... that, if we ask anything according to his will, ...

— Mark 11:24 - Therefore I tell you, all things whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you have received them, and you shall have them.

— James 4:3 - You ask, and don't receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

— 1 John 3:22 - and whatever we ask, we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do the things that are pleasing in his sight.

— Three essentials that John repeats often are: faith, obedience, and love. All three are ingredients for a good prayer life.

— Daniel 3:17-18 - 17 If it happens, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace; and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up."

— Luke 22:41-44 - 41 He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and he knelt down and prayed, 42 saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours,

be done.” .. 44 Being in agony he prayed more earnestly. His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.

- The previous two scriptures give us great examples, of those whose focus was on God’s will and therefore acceptance of God’s will without condition.

- Some other thoughts on prayer.

- Matt. 6:7-8 - 7 In praying, don’t use vain repetitions, as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their much speaking.

8 Therefore don’t be like them, for your Father knows what things you need, before you ask him.

- Jesus then proceeds to teach about prayer.

- Luke 18:1-5 - 1 He also spoke a parable to them that they must always pray, and not give up, 2 saying, “There was a judge in a certain city who didn’t fear God, and didn’t respect man. ... 4 He wouldn’t for a while, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God, nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow bothers me, I will defend her, or else she will wear me out ...’”

- Heb. 4:16 - Let’s therefore draw near with boldness to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace for help in time of need.

- 16 If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life for those who sin not leading to death. ...

- Too often sin is hidden. When it is evident that a brother is troubled with sin, then love means that we will pray for the brother or sister. (Remember 5:1-2.)

- James 5:19-20 - 19 Brothers, if any among you wanders from the truth and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

- What could be more certain of being “according to his will” than such a prayer?

- 16 ... There is a sin leading to death. I don't say that he should make a request concerning this.
 - What is sin leading to death?
 - Matt. 12:31 "Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven."

- 16 ... There is a sin leading to death. I don't say that he should make a request concerning this.
 - Heb. 10:26-27 - 26 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.
 - Heb. 10:29 How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?
 - 1 John 1:6-7 - 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.
 - This may be what John has in mind.

- 18 **We know** that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him. 19 **We know** that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

- 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; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. 21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

- In this last section of John's epistle, we find him summarizing three facts or "certainties" that his readers should have learned - 1John 5:18-21

- These "Certainties of the Christian Faith" relate to sin, the evil one, and the truth concerning fellowship with God and Jesus Christ.
- Each of these "certainties" is introduced by the words "we know".
- THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THOSE BORN OF GOD AND SIN (18)
 - "**We know** that whoever is born of God doesn't sin."
 - John has already affirmed that Christians sin - 1 John 1:8,10.
 - To say we have no sin is to lie, and to make God a liar.
 - We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; (NIV) (present participle – go on sinning)
 - This is a correct translation which we saw in 1 John 3.
 - 1 John 3:9 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because **God's seed remains in them**; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. (NIV)
 - Participle - the form of a verb, ending in -ing in English, which is used in forming continuous tenses, e.g. in I'm thinking, alone in nonfinite clauses, e.g. in sitting here, I haven't a care in the world, as a noun, e.g. in good thinking, and as an adjective, e.g. in running water.
 - John explains why the one born of God does not continuously practice sin, but there are variations in translation.
 - "but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him." (NASB)
 - but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. (NKJV)
 - Whether the verb is passive or middle voice makes a difference.
 - Passive – the subject is the recipient of the action of another. (NASB)

- Middle – the subject is performing the action upon himself. action. (NKJV)
 - Active – the subject is performing the action on another.
 - οιδαμεν οτι πας ο γεγεννημενος εκ του θεου ουχ αμαρτανει αλλ ο γεννηθεις εκ του θεου **τηρει** εαυτον και ο πονηρος ουχ απτεται αυτου
- In this epistle, the phrase "born of God" always has reference to the child of Christ, i.e., the Christian
 - 1 John 3:9; 4:7; 5:1, 4, **18**
 - 1 John 5:21 - Little children, **keep** yourselves from idols.
 - My preferred translation of 5:18 places the responsibility upon us to keep ourselves.
 - “but he who was born of God keeps himself,”
 - “The evil one does not touch him.”
 - James 4:7-8 – **7** Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8** Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
- THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THOSE BORN OF GOD AND SIN (18)
 - The difference between us and the world (19)
 - "**We know** that we are of God“
 - know (*eido*) – this is the word used in the “We know” of verses 18, 19, & 20. (Remember 5:13)
 - 1 John 5:1 – born of God
 - 1 John 3:1-2 – children of God
 - 1 John 5:13 - that you may **know** that you have eternal life,

- THE WHOLE WORLD LIES IN THE POWER OF THE EVIL ONE (19)
 - Eph. 6:12 For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world's rulers of the darkness of this age, and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.
 - Col. 1:13 who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of his love;
 - Those who are in Christ have the assurance that God is their father. Those not in Christ are still under the influences of Satan who has blinded them!
 - 2 Cor. 4:4 - in whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that the light of the Good News of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should not dawn on them.

- THE BASIS OF FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD AND ETERNAL LIFE (20)
 - **We know (*eido*) that the Son of God has come, and has given us an understanding,** that we know (*ginōskō*) him who is true, and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.
 - Jesus has come to give us true insight concerning God
 - As John declared in his gospel: "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him." - Jn 1:18
 - "THAT WE MAY KNOW...
 - "...Him who is true"
 - "He is the true God" – expressed at end of 5:20
 - "By true God [John] does not mean one who tells the truth, but him who is really God."
 - By coming in the flesh, Jesus has manifested the true God to us - John

14:7-9

- If you had known me, you would have known my Father also.
- "...and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ"
 - Jesus has also given us understanding about how we can be in God
 - It is through His Son, as we keep His words and His commandments, that we can abide in God - John 14:21,23
 - John 14:23 - "If a man loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him, and make our home with him."
- "THIS IS THE TRUE GOD AND ETERNAL LIFE"
 - Again, the expression "true God" is saying He who is "the real God"
 - With this declaration, John is also defining what "eternal life" truly is...
 - It is to "know" Him who is true
 - It is to be "in Him" who is true, and "in His Son Jesus Christ"
 - Eternal life (quality & quantity)
 - comes from "knowing" the Father and the Son intimately
 - comes by having "fellowship" with the Father and the Son
 - 1 John 1:3 - ... that you also may have fellowship with us. Yes, and our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ.
 - John 17:3 - This is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and him whom you sent, Jesus Christ.
- "Little children, keep yourselves from idols. (21)

- With his favorite term of endearment, John admonishes us to stay away from anything that would replace our devotion to the One True God
- Col. 3:3 - For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
- If there was no danger of being led astray, there would be no need for a warning!

1 John 5 - Review Questions

- What are the fundamentals that are included in believing (5:1-5)?
- How do we demonstrate that we love the children of God (5:2)?
- How do we overcome the world (5:4)?
- How would you explain the testimony of the Spirit, water, and blood to a friend (5:6-12)?
- How has God testified regarding his Son? (5:9)
- How can we know that God hears our prayers (5:14)?
- Give an example of asking according to his will (5:16)?
- How would you explain “sin leading to death” to a friend (5:16)?
- Do we “keep” ourselves from sin, or is there another who keeps us from sin (5:18)?
- How would you describe idolatry to a friend (5:21)?