



## LESSON 8: 1 JOHN 4:7-21

SHOW GOD'S LOVE

Please read 1 John 5:1-9.

John says that we show our love for God by loving His children. This has been a recurring theme throughout this book. As Christians, we are to love God and love our brothers and sisters as well. In these verses, John makes the connection between following God and loving His children.

According to verse 2, how do we know that we love the children of God?

In your own opinion, how do we show our loves for other by obeying God?

Write out verses 4 and 5 below.

When we follow God's commands and trust in the sacrifice of His Son, we become overcomers! Nothing that happens in this life can snatch us out of God's hands. We have freedom from the worries of this world because we can focus on an eternity that is promised and sealed by the blood of Jesus.

Please read 1 John 5:10-15.

What truth does John say that we must believe so as to not label God a liar?

What confidence does John say we have? (vs 14)

Please read Luke 22:39-46.

According to verse 39, what 'usual' practice did Jesus have?

Do you have a habitual prayer life?

Where do you find yourself most drawn to prayer? (Is there a certain room of your house that you make a habit of going to pray? Are you more drawn to prayer when out in nature, etc.? If so, why do you think you think of prayer more in this place?)

Why does Jesus tell his disciples to pray?

How have you noticed that prayer has kept you from falling into temptation?

Whose will did Jesus want to be done?

When you pray, do you find yourself focusing on your will or God's?

How do you think your answer to the above question affects your peace after prayer?

Please finish the book of 1 John by reading 1 John 5:16-21.

Verse 16 has been a passage that has seen its meaning debated and discussed for centuries. The Zondervan NIV Study Bible shares this insight on the verse:

*“In the context of this letter direct against Gnostic teaching, which denied the incarnation and threw off all moral restraints, it is probable that the “sin that leads to death” refers to the Gnostics’ adamant and persistent denial of the truth and to their shameless immorality. This kind of unrepentant sin leads to spiritual death. Another view is that this is sin that results in physical death. It is held that, because a believer continues to sin, God in judgment takes his or her life (1 Co 11:30). In either case, “sin that does not lead to death” is of a less serious nature.”*

Please read the book of 2<sup>nd</sup> John (It is only one chapter – 13 verses.)

What command does John give to this “Chosen Lady”? (verses 5-6)

Whom does John tell her to look out for?

Why should we be on guard against these types of people?

How do we share in the “wicked work” of people who teach anything other than the truth of God’s word?

It is important to note that John does not forbid us to have conversations with people who teach a false belief. There is a difference between communication and support.

What would be a few reasons for engaging in a conversation with a false teacher?

What should you be aware and on guard against during any conversations?

Please read the book of 3<sup>rd</sup> John (again, 13 verses).

What does John encourage Gaius to do in verses 5-8?

Why do you believe it is important for us to help provide (materially) for missionaries?

Why do you think it is impossible for a person who has a close relationship with God to habitually or purposefully do evil? (verse 11)

John's three letters inspire us to walk in the love that we profess. They serve as a warning against hate and evil. I hope that you have been encouraged by this lesson series. May your life overflow with love and light. May you draw closer to God and begin to crave His will as your own.