



# *Eternal Life*

A Study of 1 John



## 1 John 5:1-6

- Transition from *love* to *belief/faith*
  - Writing to Ephesus in the 90's
  - Christian faith is based on *testimony* (cf. 1:2-3; 4:6; John 20:29-31; Acts 1:8; 10:38-43)
  - Faith comes from hearing (Rom. 10:14-17)
    - *What you heard from the beginning* (2:24; 3:11)



## 1 John 5:6-12

- *God's Testimony About Jesus*

1. Three Witnesses
2. Two Options
3. One Conclusion

# Three Witnesses

- Background from Irenaeus:
  - Cerinthus was in Ephesus c. early 90's AD
    - Taught that Jesus was a normal human, and the Christ-spirit came upon him at his baptism and left before his crucifixion
    - An attempt to reconcile Christianity with Platonism (e.g. - *spirit good, matter bad*)



# Three Witnesses

- What does John mean by *water and blood*?
- *Water -> Jesus' baptism* by John (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:29-34)
  - Marked the beginning of His public ministry (cf. Acts 1:21-22)
  - Jesus was the Christ *before* the Holy Spirit descended on Him

# Three Witnesses

- *Blood* -> *Jesus' crucifixion* (Matt. 27:33-54; Mark 15:22-39; Luke 23:33-49; John 19:16-30)
- Jesus' *blood* cleanses us from all sin (1:7)
- Marked the end of His public ministry (cf. Acts 10:39-41; 1 Cor. 15:4-8)
- Jesus was the Christ *throughout* His physical death on the cross



## Three Witnesses

- “It is the Spirit who testifies” to these things
  - Objectively: in the written testimony of the apostles (John 15:26-17; 16:12-15; cf. 2 Pet. 1:16-21; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)
  - Subjectively: convicting men of the veracity of the apostolic witness (2:20, 27; John 16:7-11)
- The Spirit testifies about Jesus (cf. 1 John 4:1-6)

# Three Witnesses

- “because the Spirit is the truth”
  - Cf. Jesus: “I am ... the truth” (John 14:6) -> the physical personification of *the truth* of God
    - “the Spirit of [the] truth” (John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13)
  - “the Spirit *is* the truth” -> the non-physical personification of *the truth* of God -> His testimony is trustworthy





## Three Witnesses

- “For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.” -> *Jesus Christ is the Son of God*
  - “BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED” (Matt. 18:16)
- These three constitute “the testimony of God,” which is greater than man’s (He knows the Son)

## Two Options

- (1) Believe, or (2) Don't believe
  - To believe *in* the Son of God we must deem God to be credible, accept His testimony as true, and commit ourselves to Him (*faith*)
  - To reject the Son means you reject God's testimony about His Son (i.e. - call God a liar)
    - Cf. claiming to have not sinned (1:10)



## One Conclusion

- Because eternal life is only in the Son, whoever *has* the Son has life
  - *Has -> possession -> vital* relationship
    - *Has <-> confess <-> believe* (cf. 2:23; 5:10)
- In order to possess eternal life now we must believe what God says about us, our situation, and His Solution (i.e. – His Son)



## One Conclusion

- We are all sinners (Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:10)
- We all deserve death (Rom. 6:23)
- God sent His Son to die in our place (Rom. 5:8; 1 John 4:10)
- If we believe that He is who He says He is and that He did what He said, turn from sin, and trust Him to save us, He will! (Rom. 10:9-10)





## One Conclusion

- Because eternal life is only in the Son, whoever has the Son has *life*
  - Fellowship, walking in the Light, obeying His commands, practicing righteousness, pursuing purity, loving the brethren, etc.
  - “We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.” (3:14)



## So What?

- Do I really believe the gospel?
- Do I still believe God's *testimony*? (cf. 2:18-24)
- Am I living out the eternal life I have?
  - Am I walking in the Light? (1:5-7)
  - Am I following Jesus? (2:3-6)
  - Am I turning away from the world to do the will of the Father? (2:15-17; 5:4-5)