

Living and Loving with Consistency (4:17–5:13)

Water of Life

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May 26, 2016

OUTLINE OF THE BODY OF 1 JOHN

Theme Stated (2:28)

Body (2:19-4:16)

Theme Restated (4:17-19)

SUMMARY OF THE BODY OF 1 JOHN: 2:29–4:16

Only believers do righteousness, so believers manifest who they are when they do righteousness. Unbelievers manifest who they are, when they do not do righteousness (which is all that they can do). So, what do we say about believers when they are not doing righteousness?

NEW MATERIAL: Thematic Restatement

Love has been matured among us in this: that we may have boldness at the bēma, because as He is, so are we in this world (4:17)

There is no fear in love; but matured love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment (4:18a)

The one who fears has not been matured in love (4:18b)

Cf. 3:19-23

We love Him, because He first loved us (4:19)

EPISTOLARY CONCLUSION: Living and Loving with Consistency

One who says he loves God, but hates his brother is a liar is inconsistent (4:20)

Loving fellow-believers is requisite to loving God (4:21)

Those who believe that Jesus is the Christ are born again; so those who love God also love God's children [other believers] (5:1)

We recognize our love for God when we love God and keep His commandments (5:2)

Love for God is (definitionally) keeping His commandments (5:3a)

God's commandments are not burdensome, because whatever is born of God (as a result of faith) overcomes the world (5:3b-4)

Note the neuter form (*whatever* is born), not *whoever* is born. This refers to the *seed*.

Neither this passage nor Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21 view overcoming as automatic. When we believed, God's seed did overcome; but God desires further overcoming also.

Only believers in Jesus Christ overcome the world (5:5)

Jesus came with respect to water [His baptism] and with respect to blood [the cross], as the Holy Spirit testifies, because the Spirit is truthful (5:6)

Three (the Spirit, water, and blood) agree as one in testifying [to Jesus Christ] (5:7-8)

The unwise promise by Erasmus

God's testimony concerning His Son is greater than man's testimony, which we accept (5:9)

Each believer has the Father's testimony in himself, but the unbeliever makes God into a liar because he has disbelieved the Father's testimony of the Son (5:10)

The Father's testimony is that He has given us everlasting life in His Son; so believers have life, unbelievers lack life (5:11-12)

John wrote verses 6-12 so the believing readers would [continue to] know that they have everlasting life and that they would continue believing in the name of the Son of God (5:13)

CONCLUSION