

John will give us five very clear reasons why he wrote this book. Assuming those in 2:12-14 aren't actually reasons, but rather more a qualifying of his recipients, then two reasons will be in ch. 1, two in ch. 2, and one in ch. 5. Be sure to write them below.

As you go through this book, you will need to decide whether the recipients are Christians or not. List at least 3 scriptures to support your conclusion.

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I JOHN

John spends a great deal of time conveying “cause and effect” in this letter. You will see several statements of “if/then” statements or the like. See how many of them you can list below. Put the cause on the left and the result on the right.

1. John (and those with him) have had at least 4 different types of encounters with “that which is from the beginning.” What are those 4 encounters?

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2. In vs. 1-4, list at least 4 things that Jesus is called.

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3. Back in v. 2, what does John bear witness to?

4. In v. 3, we get our 1st of the 5 reasons that John is writing this letter. What is it, and what qualifies him to write this letter?

5. In v. 4, we get our 2nd reason. What is it?

6. What is the message that they have heard from him (make sure it's both statements!)?

7. Building on that premise, John gives us an if/then statement. The consequence would be that we lie and do not practice the truth. What would be the cause?

8. Then we have another cause and effect, again building on that premise. The cause is “if we walk in the light as He is in the light.” What is the effect (2)?

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9. Next, we have 3 things we can do with sin. Again, consider that this is building on the premise that God is light. First of all, what are the 3 things we can do with sin?

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10. What are the 3 effects?

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11. Who deceives themselves?

12. Who is clean from all unrighteousness?

13. Who makes God out to be a liar?

Application

- Looking at your life, how much of it is spent in the light of the Lord, and how much is spent walking in the darkness of this world? The Lord has not called us to live a dichotomous relationship with Him!
- Pray that you would cast off anything that looks like darkness and live in the light of the Lord! The good news is that (as we see in this passage) He is in the business of forgiving and cleansing us!

1. John begins this chapter by giving the 3rd reason why he wrote this book. What is it?

 2. Who has an Advocate with the Father?

 3. Who is the Advocate with the Father?

 4. In vs. 1-2, list 3 things that Jesus is called.
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 5. In v. 2, we read that Jesus is the Propitiation (ransom payment) for sins. Whose sins?

 6. Next, we have another cause and effect. If we do this, we can know that we know Him. What is it?

 7. Building on this premise, we have another cause and effect statement. So who is a liar?

 8. We have another cause and effect statement following. What is the result of keeping (guarding from pollution or invasion) His Word?

 9. We have another cause and effect following. The cause is to walk as He walked. What is the effect?

 10. Now, we have the fun vs. 7-8! The term “commandment” is used 4 times. What is the old commandment (note: this will be defined in the following chapter)?

 11. Yet, why is this a new commandment?
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12. Building on this premise (and this will be a hint for that which is to come), we have 3 more cause and effect statements. The first one: who is in darkness until now?

13. The second: who abides in the light, and what is the product of abiding in the light?

14. Who walks in darkness, and what is the product of that?

15. In vs. 12-13, John breaks his recipients up into 3 categories. List the categories and their qualifications. Where do you think you fit into this?

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16. Next, we have our first command in the whole book! What is it?

17. Building on that commandment, we have another cause and effect question. Who does not have the love of the Father?

18. What are the 3 ingredients of the world?

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19. What 2 things are passing away?

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20. Look back at v. 8. What also is passing away in them?

21. Who abides forever?

22. Next, we have a bit of an obscure cause and effect question. The effect is “we can know it is the last hour.” What is the cause?

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23. List 3 qualities about these “antichrists.”

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24. How can the recipients be sure that they are not “antichrists?”

25. Who is the liar?

26. Who is antichrist?

27. Who does not have the Father?

28. Who has the Father also (note: the last 4 questions revolved around if/then statements)?

29. Next, we have our 2nd command. What is it?

30. Building on that command, we have another if/then statement. The result is that you will abide in the Son and in the Father. What is the cause?

31. What is the promise that He promised us?

32. Next, he gives us our 4th reason why he wrote this. What is it?

33. Why did the recipients not “need” anyone to teach them?

34. List everything you can learn about “the anointing” from vs. 20 and 27.
35. Next, we have our 3rd command. What is it?
36. Building on protocol, John builds if/then statement off of this command as well. What are the 2 results of abiding in Him here?
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37. Next, we have another if/then statement to conclude the chapter. Knowing that Jesus is righteous, what is the result of everyone who practices righteousness?

Application

- We see the gravity of the situation: we are living in the last hour! This is evident by the many antichrists that have come (even from among us). In the midst of this, we see the command to let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. This exhortation to stay planted in the truth of the Gospel of Jesus is so fundamental to our walk. Are you rooted in His Truth, or do you find yourself being pulled away from the Truth by antichrists?
- Pray that you would remain planted in the Truth of the Gospel of Jesus!
- DON'T MOVE!!!

1. The first thing we are told in this chapter is a command to “Behold.” What are we told to behold here?

 2. How has God shown this type of love?

 3. Why does the world not know us?

 4. So now what are we considered?

 5. What hasn’t been revealed yet?

 6. When Jesus is revealed, what will happen?

 7. What will cause us to be like Jesus?

 8. Next we read that we can be as pure as Jesus. How (notice that this is basically a cause/effect statement)?

 9. What is sin?

 10. We will read two reasons why Jesus came (was manifested) in this chapter and here is the 1st one. What is it?

 11. What is there none of in Jesus?

 12. In v. 6, we have our next cause and effect. The cause is abiding in Him. What is the effect?

 13. We have a 2nd cause and effect in that verse. The cause is living in continual sin. What is the effect?
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14. In v. 7, we have another cause and effect where we are told we can be as righteous as Jesus is righteous. What cause is there to become as righteous as Jesus (notice the comparison is practicing righteousness versus continuing in sin)?

 15. In v. 8, we have our next cause and effect. The effect is being “of the devil”. What is the cause?

 16. What has the devil been doing from the beginning?

 17. Now we have our 2nd reason for Jesus coming (being manifested). What is it?

 18. Now we have our next cause/effect. The effect is not continuing in a lifestyle of sin. What is the cause?

 19. Why is such a person not continuing to sin?

 20. Now we have a comparison between 2 children. Who are they?
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 21. We have 2 qualifications of people who are not of God. What are they (don't forget to put them in the cause/effect list)?
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 22. Now we read what the message was that they had heard from the beginning. How does this relate to ch. 2? What is this message?

 23. Remember how people were broken into 2 categories by being called 2 types of children? Here they are developed. Why did Cain murder his brother?
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24. If Cain was under such a mindset, and the world is much like Cain, what shouldn't surprise us about the world's view of us?

25. In v. 14, we have our next 2 cause and effects. What are they?

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26. Who is a murderer (this is also listed as cause/effect)?

27. What do no murderer possess?

28. How can we know love (cause/effect)?

29. How should we apply this love to our own lives?

30. There are those who, in their actions, could lead others to ask, "How can the love of God be in that person?" What actions could elicit such a question?

31. How are we to love (2)?

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32. We have, in essence, 2 more effects in v. 18. List out the causes and effects related to this verse.

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33. What comfort can we find when our hearts condemn us (2)?

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34. How can we have confidence before God?

35. Why do we know that we get what we ask of God (2)?

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36. What is His commandment (2)?

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37. Building on this idea we have our next cause/effect. The cause is keeping the command (as listed in question 36). What is the effect?

38. How do we know that He abides in us?

Application

- In this chapter, we see an exhortation to love one another as the Lord has loved us and called us His children! With the context of sacrificial service as the definition of love here, do you find yourself loving others as we are commanded to? Taking the converse definition of selfish indulgence, do you find yourself hating others by putting yourself above them and using them to fulfill your desires? Obviously, this is a sobering checkup, but it is so vital to walk how Jesus walked: in selfless love!
- Pray that the Love the Father has poured out on us through His Son Jesus would pour out of us onto everyone we interact with, that you would love as you are called to!

1. What are we to do with the spirits and why?

 2. How can we know the Spirit of God (cause/effect)?

 3. Which spirit(s) is not from God (c/e)?

 4. What is this spirit called?

 5. Where is this spirit currently?

 6. Why have we overcome them?

 7. What 3 qualities do we know of those who are of this world?
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 8. What about those who are of God?

 9. How can we know the spirit of truth from the spirit of error?

 10. Next we have our next command. What is it?

 11. Building on this command is another cause/effect. The cause is those who love. What is the effect?

 12. Following that is another c/e. The cause is those who do not love. What is the effect?

 13. What is God called here?
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14. How did God manifest His love toward us? For what end?

 15. So how would you define “love” from God’s example?

 16. What condition were we in when this love was shown?

 17. What was Jesus sent to be?

 18. Since God loved us in this manner, what are we to do?

 19. Following this is another *c/e*. The effect is that God abides in us. What is the cause?

 20. Along those same lines, when is His love perfected in us?

 21. How can we know that we abide in Him and He in us?

 22. And as a result of His Spirit, what do we testify to?

 23. Following is another *c/e*. The effect is that God abides in us and we in God. What is the cause?

 24. And with that what do we know and believe?

 25. What is God called here?

 26. And another cause and effect... The cause: we abide in love...
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27. How is love perfected among us?
28. How can we have boldness in the Day of Judgment?
29. In love, there is none of this. What is it?
30. Why?
31. Who has not been made perfect in love?
32. Why do we love Him?
33. Who is a liar (c/e)?
34. So what is the command we have from Him?

Application

- Here we see a clear-cut line between the Spirit of God and the spirit of the Antichrist. The distinction is one's stance on Jesus. We also see that whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God has God living in Him. God abiding in us has two results here:
 1. Victory in Him, as He is greater than he who is in the world
 2. A standard of love, that results in the casting out of fear.With this in mind, are you living in the victory and love of the indwelling God, or do you find yourself caught in fear and a lack of love?
- Remember Who dwells in you and rejoice in His victory!
- With this victory in mind, love as you are called to love: as Jesus loved us!

1. Who is born of God (c/e)?

 2. Cause = everyone who loves Him who begot. Effect = ?

 3. How can we know that we love the children of God (c/e)?

 4. What aren't His commands?

 5. Who overcomes the world (c/e)?

 6. What is the victory that has overcome the world?

 7. Who overcomes the world (c/e)?

 8. In what 2 ways did Jesus come?
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 9. Who bears witness of this and why?

 10. Who are the 3 that bear witness in Heaven?
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 11. What do we know about these 3 and their relationship with each other?
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12. Who are the 3 who bear witness on Earth?

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13. Why is this witness greater than the witness of men?

14. Who has this witness in himself (c/e)?

15. Who has made God out to be a liar and why (c/e)?

16. What is God's testimony (2)?

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17. The effect = has life. What is the cause?

18. The effect = does not have life. What is the cause?

19. We now have our final reason why this letter was written. What is it?

20. What can we learn about the recipients here?

21. What is the confidence we have in Him?

22. How do vs. 14-15 relate to v. 16?

23. There appear to be 2 categories of sin here. What are they?

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24. How are we to respond to a brother who commits a sin of the 1st category?

25. What about the 2nd?

26. What should we expect if we pray for those of the 1st category?

27. All unrighteousness = _____.

28. What do we know about those who are born of God?

29. What 2 other things do we know about those who are born of God?

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30. What do we know about the whole world?

31. What has the Son of God given us? For what purpose?

32. According to this verse, Who is the true God and eternal life?

33. In essence, this letter ends with a command. What is it?

Application

- What part of this book spoke the loudest to you? Why?
- As we see the importance of remaining steadfast in Jesus and letting the overflow of His love to bear fruit in our lives, remember to live as He lived and love as He loved: with steadfastness devotion to the Lord and selfless, sacrificial love towards others!