



Concluding Thoughts

Lesson 10 (1 John 5:13-21)

As we come to the end of 1 John, we get to listen in to the aged apostle sharing several more concerns that are on his heart with these Christians before signing off. This final section begins with a summary of John's purpose, and then a few last admonitions.

John's Concluding Thoughts

A. _____ and prayer (5:13-15)

It's hard to pray to a God that you fear might be fundamentally opposed to you.

B. _____ and Sin (5:16-17)

The first thing on John's heart in prayer is concern for his fellow Christian's spiritual state. But while the general emphasis on prayer and sin is clear, the question of what exactly the "sin unto death" is confusing. There are several different interpretations:

- _____ of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:31-32; Mark 3:28-30; Luke 12:10). These seem to be the only places where certain sins are beyond hope; however, Mark connects blasphemy of the Holy Spirit with attributing signs performed by Jesus to Satan. Since we no longer directly see supernatural signs performed by Christ, this likely isn't what John meant.
- **A sin that has already resulted in _____.** If someone has sinned so grievously that the Lord took their life there is no use praying for them. While this is possible, nothing else in the Scriptures hints at praying on behalf of the dead.
- **Apostasy.** John has been concerned with false teachers trying to win converts. Those who abandon the faith aren't under the same guarantee as the "brother" of verse 16. John doesn't forbid prayer, but clarifies his promise of God's restoration doesn't apply to those who have abandoned the gospel.



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C. _____ and Identity (5:18-20)

John wants to make sure the Christians have certain truths nailed down. All three relate to who we are now that we are saved.

D. The Danger of _____ (5:21)

The New Testament connects the world, out of control desires, and idolatry on several occasions (Colossians 3:5, Ephesians 5:5, James 4:1-4, 1 John 2:15-18). Since John addresses worldliness throughout his letter, and idolatry and worldliness are often connected, it's best to see this as a broad concern about believers being pulled away from God.

Review of 1 John

1. Fiercely _____ onto the right teaching.

Throughout the letter, John is constantly giving examples of wrong teaching and then correcting it. The way to overcome the lies is to know what God's Word says.

2. Completely _____ in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The wrong teaching that John was combating misunderstood Jesus wrong. It appears that some were denying the divinity of Jesus (1 John 5:5), or the humanity of Jesus (1 John 4:2), or the status of Jesus as the Messiah (1 John 2:22; 5:1).

3. Carefully _____ the commands of God.

Like John's audience, we find ourselves bombarded by those arguing that the new birth need not result in a changed life. This ignores God's character (1:5-6), for being born of God means living like God by keeping His commands (2:28-29; 3:6, 9-10; 5:18).

4. Selflessly _____ your brothers and sisters.

John follows Jesus in boiling down God's commands into one command that summarizes all the others: Love God and love others (Matthew 22:35-40). Throughout, John ties together obedience and love, especially love for other Christians (2:7-11).

5. Confidently _____ that you belong to God.

The book of 1 John has often been summarized with one word: **assurance**. John uses that phrase "that you may know," "by this we know," and other similar expressions repeatedly in this letter.

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