



**WEEK 4 TEXT:** 1 John 5:9-21 (ESV)

**WEEK 4 MAIN POINT:** The world is broken, but we don't have to be.

### **SERIES RECAP**

John wrote this letter we call "first John." The point of the letter is easy. He gave us the answer in 1 John 5:13:

*"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life."*

John wants them to REALIZE they have eternal life. He wants that to be something that is constantly in their minds. Eternal life begins when you start following Jesus.

In the first week, we read that John said some people are walking in light, while some people are walking in darkness. If we're being honest, we see both light and dark in us. John said that if we confess our sins to Jesus, He is faithful and just to forgive us (1 John 1:9).

In the second week, we looked at some lawyer videos. John sort of paints this picture of a courtroom. If we have any darkness, we need a good lawyer. Jesus, the Righteous, is our advocate. Not only is He our lawyer, He also paid the entire debt the court says we owe.

In the third week, we saw that John teaches us something we have known from the beginning—we should love one another. Nobody is surprised that the Bible teaches we should love one another. What *is* surprising, is that John defines love as laying down your life for another. We should lay down our lives for one another.

### **----TRANSITION TO WEEK 4 MESSAGE----**

This week, we're going to finish our look at 1 John. Tonight, John will takes us back to that imaginary courtroom we looked at in week 2.

### 1 John 5:9–12 (ESV)

*<sup>9</sup> If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. <sup>10</sup> Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. <sup>11</sup> And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup> Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

If we've grown up in the church, we sometimes see a word we recognize and think we know what it's talking about. For example, the word "testimony." That's a churchy word. When we use it in a churchy way, we mean something like, "This is the story about me learning about Jesus."

John doesn't mean this in the churchy way. When John mentions "testimony" here, he is talking about the legal record of the court. This is like that moment in the movie when the judge asks for the court record to be read aloud. It's the recorded testimony—and in this case, it's the recorded testimony of God.

The testimony John mentions says that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in Jesus. If anyone has Jesus, he has that life. If anyone does not have Jesus, he does not have this life.

In our world, there is a lot of talk about the exclusivity of Jesus. We don't like talking about Jesus in terms of Him actually being the only way to heaven. Are there multiple ways to God, or is there only one? **According to John, the testimony on court record states that only through Jesus is there life.**

This tends to frustrate some people. I love having an open conversation with anyone who is frustrated by this. At the end of the day, we all have to admit that the Bible teaches that Jesus is the only way to eternal life. And, if this is true, aren't you glad someone is willing to share the truth with you?

### 1 John 5:13–17 (ESV)

*<sup>13</sup> I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. <sup>14</sup> And this is the confidence*

*that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.<sup>15</sup> And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.*

*<sup>16</sup> If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. <sup>17</sup> All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.*

Last week, we talked about loving one another. In the closing words of John's letter, he reminds us that a way to love someone is to pray for them. Some of you have friends who are making a series of bad mistakes. Are you praying for them? Maybe you have a friend who is planning to sleep with her boyfriend or his girlfriend. Are you praying for him/her? Maybe you have a friend who is planning to go that one party ... you know, the one where everyone there last time got drunk or worse. Are you praying for that friend?

Maybe we can pray for our friends like this kid plays tug-of-war.

**[Author Note:** I showed this video of a kid playing on a tug-of-war team as a metaphor for praying for one another. Even when it looks like he was going to cross the line and lose, he came back. You can see the pain and grit in his face. It has cheesy music. The students in the room were cheering him on. Some were crying at the end. #MiddleSchoolGirls

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xi6p0ofziFQ>]

Sometimes we are the only ones who know a certain person, and God wants us to pray for that person. Maybe it's a decision that you know will lead to disaster, or it's a series of decisions your friend has no problem making, but it's negatively affecting everything around him or her. Will you pray for your friend like that kid played tug-of-war? Even when your toes graze the line and it looks like it's too late, will you dig in deeper and pray for your friend like his or her life depended on it?

John ends his letter with these three 'knows':

### **1 John 5:18 (ESV)**

*We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.*

We *know* that when we are born of God, we no longer want to sin. In fact, if you find in yourself a desire to stop sinning (or to stop walking in darkness, or doing bad things, or whatever phrase makes sense to you), then that is definite evidence that Jesus is changing your heart.

### **1 John 5:19 (ESV)**

*We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.*

We *know* we are from God. The rest of the world is at odds with God. On one hand, that is incredibly hopeful. We know that the brokenness of this world does not affect our stance with God. In fact, the Bible doesn't ignore what is obvious to everyone: this world is broken and it hurts. On the other hand, that can feel isolating.

If we are from God but rarely hang out with other followers of Jesus, the world starts to look very unwelcoming. **Community is important. It says we are from God ... so stay in community.**

### **1 John 5:20–21 (ESV)**

<sup>20</sup> *And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.* <sup>21</sup> *Little children, keep yourselves from idols.*

We *know* that Jesus has come to give us understanding so that we can KNOW him. The second KNOW in verse 20 is the word *ginosko*. What John wants us realize is that we can trust what the Bible says about Jesus, in part, because we have an experiential knowledge of Jesus.

Another way of saying that is, **the more history we build with Jesus, the more we trust not only what He says, but also what we remember Him doing in our own lives.**

## **SERIES CLOSING**

John wants all Christians to come a point in their walk with Jesus where they realize they have Jesus's life pulsing in their veins.

If we see with REAL EYES, we know that:

- There is eternal life in Jesus.
- If we ask, He forgives.
- If we need help, He is our defense lawyer and our payment.
- We should love because we are loved.
- Love isn't a feeling, it's a doing.
- My love for others is evidence of God changing me.
- We should pray first, not last.
- Jesus isn't just a hope ... He's the *only* hope we have.
- We don't have to keep stumbling over the same mistakes.
- We come from God, but this world is broken.
- We can build a history with God.