

# Bible Question Class Books

## Bible Study Questions on **1 John**

by David E. Pratte

**A workbook suitable for Bible classes,  
family studies, or personal Bible study**



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## Bible Study Questions on the Book of 1 John

### Introduction:

This workbook was designed for Bible class study, family study, or personal study. The questions contain minimal human commentary, but instead urge the student to study to understand Scripture. The material is copyrighted, but each student has permission to print copies of the material for his/her personal or family study. I suggest that each student print a copy of these questions and place them in a notebook. In addition, teachers are permitted to make copies for students they teach in a class or home Bible study setting. See copyright notes at the end of this material for further information.

Questions labeled "think" are intended to encourage students to apply what they have learned.

I also **strongly** urge teachers to use other Scriptures, questions, applications, and comments to promote productive in-class discussion. Please, do **not** let the class period consist primarily of the following: "Joe, will you answer number 1?" "Sue, what about number 2?" Etc. Instead, let the questions be assigned as homework so students come to class prepared. Then let class time consist of **discussion** that focuses on the Scriptures themselves, not just reading the questions to see whether they were answered "correctly."

I also urge the class to emphasize the **Bible** teaching. Please, do not become bogged down over "What did the author mean by question #5?" My meaning is relatively unimportant. The issue is what the Bible says. Concentrate on the meaning and applications of Scripture. If a question helps promote Bible understanding, stay with it. If it becomes unproductive, move on. (Note: My abbreviation "**b/c/v**" means "book, chapter, and verse.")

Finally, I encourage plain applications of the principles studied. God's word is written so souls may please God and have eternal life. Please study it with the respect and devotion it deserves!

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For whatever good this material achieves, to God be the glory.

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## Assignments on 1 John 1

Read 1 John 1 then answer these questions:

1. **Special Assignment:** What do we know about the apostle John? (Think: What evidence is there that John wrote this letter?)

2. Who is the Word of life, and where else is this language used?

3. What physical kinds of evidence were the basis for John's testimony (v1)? (Think: Is our faith "a leap in the dark" without proof? Explain.)

4. **Define** "witness," and explain why we need it.

5. What kind of life was manifested, and as implied by the context, who made it known?

6. **Define** "fellowship," and tell with whom we have fellowship if we accept the evidence.

7. List 3 other **passages** about fellowship.

8. What reason did John give why he wrote this? (Think: How would this testimony produce this result?)

9. What message was John announcing?

10. How are "light" and "darkness" used here, and where else are they similarly used? (Think: How much darkness is in God?)

11. What must we do to have fellowship with God & His people (vv 6,7)?

12. What does “walk” mean here (check other similar verses).

13. What would prevent us from having this fellowship? (Think: Is it possible to claim fellowship with God when it is not true? Explain.)

14. What cleanses us of sin?

15. **Special Assignment:** Put a heading on a sheet of paper, “What is needed to have fellowship with God?” (or to know God or to have God). As we study 1,2,3 John, list different requirements (and passages).

16. What consequences follow if we say we have not sinned (vv 8,10)? (Think: Who alone lived a sinless life? Proof?)

17. List other **passages** showing all people sin. (Think: Does this prove human nature is inherently corrupt so avoiding sin is impossible, we can't help ourselves, so we “have to” sin? Explain. Note 1 Cor. 10:13.)

18. What must we do to be cleansed of sin? (Think: To whom should sin be confessed?)

19. List 3 other **passages** showing what a child of God must do to be forgiven of sin. (Think: Will we be saved on the basis of our sinlessly perfect life? On what basis will we be saved? Explain.)

20. **Application:** What are the consequences of this to “once saved, always saved”? (Think: Are a Christian's sins cleansed the instant he commits them without interruption? Explain.)

## Assignments on 1 John 2

Read 1 John 2 then answer these questions:

1. Why did John write according to 2:1?

2. **Define** “advocate” and “propitiation.” (Think: What is John teaching about whether or not we should sin?)

3. How do we know that we know Jesus? (Note: Add it to your list.)

4. What if a person claims to know God but disobeys?

5. **Special Assignment:** Explain the connection between love and obedience. (Think: Does love in 1 John mean just a pleasant disposition toward others? Explain.)

6. How should we walk according to v6? (Think: Explain the connection to 1:7.)

7. What commandments was John writing (vv 7,8)?

8. What is the condition of one who hates his brother?

9. What is the condition of one who loves? (Note: Add it to your list.)

10. What does hatred do to our ability to see (v11)? Explain. (Think: Consider carefully what it means to love or hate as 1 John continues.)

11. What additional reasons are given in vv 12-14 why John was writing?

12. What 3 groups of people are mentioned in these verses? (Think: To whom do these groups refer?)

13. What does it mean to overcome the evil one, and how does one do it?

14. What should we **not** love, and why not? (Think: Shouldn't Christians love everything? Explain.)

15. **Define** "world" and "lust" as used here.

16. **Define** each of the things that are in the world (v16), and give an example of each. (Think: How are these things illustrated in the temptation of Eve in Gen. 3?)

17. What reason does v17 give why we should not love the world?

18. What does "anti-Christ" mean? (Think: Was there just one anti-Christ or many?)

19. **Special Assignment:** Make a list of things we learn regarding anti-Christ as we proceed.

20. Why do such people leave God's people? Explain.

21. **Special Assignment:** Departure of people into error obviously creates problems, but what are some good things that may come from it? (Think: What is the "anointing" of v20?)

22. Why was John writing according to v21?

23. What are some things an anti-Christ teaches?

24. What are the consequences of denying or confessing the Son? (Add it to your list.)

25. List two other *passages* showing the importance of confessing Christ.

26. What must abide in us in v24, and what is the consequence?

27. What promise has God given us? (Think: Do we already now possess eternal life? Explain.)

28. What problem was John concerned about (v26)?

29. Why should we continue to abide in Jesus?

30. What lesson should we learn from God's righteousness (v29)? (Think: What does this show about the importance of obedience?)

31. **Application:** What does it mean to be born of God, and how does it happen (see other passages)?

## Assignments on 1 John 3

Read 1 John 3 then answer these questions:

1. What position has God's love given us? (Think: What is involved in being children of God?)
2. What is our relationship to the world, and what are the consequences?
3. What do we know about what we will be like when Jesus returns? (Think: Should we speculate about the specific nature of our reward? Explain.)
4. If we expect this reward, what should we do?
5. Explain the nature of sin according to v4.
6. Connect 3:4,5 to 2:1. What is John teaching us about law?

7. **Application:** Does John teach that we may disregard law as long as we have a loving disposition? Explain.

8. Why did Jesus come to earth? Explain.
9. What lesson should this teach about our own sins (v6)? (Think: Explain the connection between v5 and v6.)
10. How can we be righteous (v7)? (Think: Give some examples of ideas that might "lead us astray" regarding this.)
11. What are the consequences of committing sin? Why is this so?



12. How should one act if he is born of God (v9)? (Think: What is meant by “his seed abides in him”?)

13. List other **passages** showing whether or not it is possible for a child of God to sin. (Think: In what sense does John say a Christian “cannot sin,” and how does this relate to “once saved, always saved”?)

14. What distinguishes children of God from children of the devil? (Add to your list.)

15. What message has been known from the beginning?

16. <b>Special Assignment:</b> Tell the story of one who did not love his brother and what he did as a result (give b/c/v).
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17. How does the world view us? (Think: What treatment should we expect as a result?)

18. List other **passages** regarding the world’s attitude toward and treatment of us.

19. What tells whether we have life or death (v14)? (Add to the list.)

20. Hatred is equivalent to what sin? (Explain and give cross-references).

21. How do we know God loved us, and what should we do as a result?

22. How should our love show itself according to v17?

23. List other *passages* about helping needy people.

24. Explain the contrast in v18. What can we learn about love? (Think: How does one love in deed and truth?)

25. What assurance do we have if we do practice love (v19)?

26. What consequences follow if our heart does or does not condemn us (vv 20,21)?

27. What must we do for God to answer our prayers?

28. List other *passages* showing whose prayer God will or will not answer.

29. What specific commands must we obey (v23)?

<p>30. <b>Special Assignment:</b> Are love and faith commands? What consequence follows for the doctrine that we need not obey commands to be saved?</p>
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31. Why is obedience important according to v24? (Add to your list.) (Think: Explain how the Spirit gives the knowledge God abides in us.)

## Assignments on 1 John 4

Read 1 John 4 then answer these questions:

1. What subject is brought up in v1, and where else do we read about such people?
2. What should we do to the spirits? (Think: Consider how this is done as we proceed. Is it wrong to challenge the teaching and claims of religious people? Explain.)
3. What test is given for teachers in vv 2,3? (Think: Is this the only test for a false teacher? Explain. Cf. v6 and other passages.)
4. List other **passages** showing Jesus came in the flesh. (Think: Again, does the anti-Christ come shortly before Jesus' second coming?)
5. By what means do we overcome evil (v4)? Explain.

6. **Special Assignment:** List and explain some characteristics of false teachers (v5).

7. How can we know truth from error according to v6? (Cf. to v3.)
8. What other **passages** show how to distinguish truth from error?
9. What subject is returned to in v7?
10. Why should we love one another? (Add to your list.)

11. What is our condition if we do not have love? (Think: In what sense is God love?)

12. List at least 2 **passages** outside 1 John that teach the importance of love.

13. How did God demonstrate love, and where else does the Bible teach this?

14. Who loved first: man or God? What does this teach us? (Think: Again, what is a “propitiation”?)

15. What effect should God’s love have in our lives? (Think: Should we love others only when their character is appealing? Explain.)

16. <b>Special Assignment:</b> What can we learn from God about the nature of love?
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17. Who has seen God, and where else is this taught?

18. Why is it important to have love according to vv 12,13? (Think: See 3:24 about the Spirit given us.)

19. How do we know God sent Jesus to save us?

20. Explain the connection between v14 and the fact no one has seen God (v12). (Think: How can you love someone you have never seen?)

21. What does v15 say we must do to abide in God? (add to list)

22. What does v16 say we must do to abide in God? (add to list)

23. What is the consequence of having love (v17)? (Think: Explain the last part of v17 — “as he is...”)

24. What is the connection between love and fear (v18)? (Think: What kind of fear is meant here?)

25. What motivates our love (v19)?

26. <b>Application:</b> Explain how God’s love for us teaches us to love.
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27. What is the condition of one who hates his brother?

28. Why can we not love God if we hate our brother?

29. What command has God given?

30. Again, can we refuse to obey commands and yet be saved because we just “love others”? Explain.

## Assignments on 1 John 5

Read 1 John 5 then answer these questions:

1. Who is begotten (born) of God? (Think: What kind of faith is required — “faith only” without obedience?)

2. What does this begetting (birth) mean regarding love?

3. How do we know when we have love for others? (Think: How does this apply to the idea that obedience does not matter as long as we have love?)

4. What does it mean to love God? (Think: In what sense are His commands not grievous?)

5. List other *passages* that connect love and obedience.

6. Who overcomes the world, and where else does the Bible speak of this victory?

7. What must we do to overcome the world?

8. **Application:** Explain why Jesus is so important to our victory.

9. How did Jesus come (v6)? (Think: What does this mean?)

10. What does the Spirit do to help our faith?

11. Who bears witness of Jesus? (Think: In what sense do these three agree?)

12. **Special Assignment:** Describe some circumstances in which we accept human testimony.

13. How has God given witness regarding Jesus? (Think: In what sense do we have this testimony in us?)

14. If we do not accept God's witness, what are we saying, in effect? (Think: Is there an acceptable-middle ground faith? "I believe Jesus was a great teacher, but not the Son of God?")

15. Exactly what did God bear witness to regarding Jesus?

16. **Special Assignment:** List other *passages* regarding eternal life and explain what you know about it?

17. What must we do to have eternal life? (Think: How does one do this?)

18. Why had John written according to v13?

19. How must we pray in order for God to hear? (Think: Explain what this means?)

20. List other *passages* showing God answers prayer.

21. For whom should we pray, and what will happen as a result?

22. List other **passages** regarding praying for forgiveness. (Think: What is the difference between a sin to death and one not to death? Are some sins mortal and others venial?)

23. What is sin (v17)? How does this compare to 3:4?

24. What should a child of God not do (v18), and where else did we study this?

25. How can we avoid evil (v18) and how is this done?

26. How do Christians differ from the world (v19)? (Think: In what sense does the world lie in the evil one?)

27. What has Jesus done for us (v20)?

28. <b>Application:</b> According to what we have learned in 1 John, what does it mean to be in Jesus?
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29. What should we avoid (v21)?

30. List other **passages** regarding idolatry. (Think: What are some examples or forms of idolatry?)



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