

**This book is one of the letters  
that the Apostle John wrote to  
his fellow believers. We call this  
book  
1 John**

*1 John 1:1-4*

*We apostles proclaim to you the message about the One who has lived eternally, so that you may be joined together with us and we may be completely happy.*

<sup>1</sup> *I, John, am writing to you about the one who existed before there was anything else. He is the one whom we apostles listened to as he taught us! We saw him! We ourselves looked at him and touched him! He is the one who taught us the message that enables people to have eternal life (OR, live spiritually).*

<sup>2</sup> *Because he came here to the earth and we have seen him, we proclaim to you clearly that the one whom we have seen is the one who has always lived. He was previously with his Father in heaven, but he came to live among us.*

<sup>3</sup> *We proclaim to you the message about Jesus, the one whom we saw and heard, in order that you may have a close relationship with us. The ones whom we have a close relationship with are God our Father and his Son Jesus Christ.*

<sup>4</sup> I am writing to you about these things so that you *◀will be convinced/believe▶ that they are true, and as a result we may be completely joyful.*

*We should continue to be morally pure, because God is morally pure, and he is able to forgive our sins on the basis that Jesus died to acquit us of the guilt of all our sins.*

*1 John 1:5—2:2*

<sup>5</sup> The message that we heard from Christ and proclaim to you is this: God is *pure in every way. He never sins. He is like [MET] a brilliant light that has no darkness at all.*

<sup>6</sup> If we claim to have a close relationship with God, but *we conduct our lives in an impure manner; that is like living [MET] in evil darkness.* We are lying. We are not conducting our lives according to *God's true message.*

<sup>7</sup> But living *in a pure manner, as God is living in a pure manner [MET] in every way, is like living in God's light.* If we do that, we have a close relationship with each other. Not only that, but *God ◀acquits us/removes the guilt▶ of all our sins because he accepts what his Son Jesus did for us when his blood flowed from his body when he died. So we should conduct our lives ◀in a manner according to what God says is pure▶.*

<sup>8</sup> Those who say they never behave sinfully are deceiving themselves, and refusing *to accept as true what God says about them.*

<sup>9</sup> But God will do what he says that he will do, and what he does is *always* right. So, if we confess to him that we *have behaved* sinfully, he

will forgive *us* for our sins and ◀will free us from/remove▶ *the guilt of all our sins. Because of that, we should confess to him that we have behaved sinfully.*

<sup>10</sup> *Because God says that everyone has sinned, those who say/claim that they have never behaved sinfully talk as though God lies! They reject what God says about us!*

## 2

<sup>1</sup> You who are very dear to me, I am writing this to you *to say, "Do not sin!"* But if any of you *believers* sins, *God can forgive you because we have Jesus Christ, who is the righteous one, who speaks to the Father on our behalf and asks him to forgive us.*

<sup>2</sup> *Remember that Jesus Christ voluntarily sacrificed his own life for us, so that as a result God forgives our sins. Yes, God is able to forgive our sins, but not only ours! He is also able to forgive the sins of people everywhere!*

*We should conduct our lives as Christ did, obeying what God commands us to do. We will then be loving God in the manner in which he wants us to.*

### *1 John 2:3-6*

<sup>3</sup> *I will tell you how we can be sure that we ◀know/have a close relationship with▶ God. If we obey what he commands us to do, that shows us that we have a close relationship with him. So we must always obey what he commands us to do.*

<sup>4</sup> Those who say, "We ◀know/have a close relationship with▶ God," and do not obey what

*God commands us to do*, are liars. They are not conducting their lives according to *God's* true message.

<sup>5</sup> But those who obey what *God* commands them to do are the people who love God in the manner in which he wants us to. *I will tell you* how we can be sure that we have a close relationship with God:

<sup>6</sup> If we say that we are living as God wants us to, we should *conduct our lives* as Christ *did*.

*We ought to love our fellow believers in order to continue behaving like people living in the light.*

*1 John 2:7-11*

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, I am not writing a new *additional* command to you. Instead, I am writing to you a command which was given to you when you first [MTY] *believed in Christ*. That command is *part of* the message that you have *always* heard.

<sup>8</sup> Nevertheless, *I can say that* the command I am writing to you is a new command. *It is new because* what Christ *did* was new, and what you *are doing* is new, because you *have been ceasing to conduct your lives in a morally impure manner* and are now *truly conducting your lives in a pure manner*. That is like [MET] no longer *living in darkness*. Instead, *it is like* living where a brilliant light is already shining.

<sup>9</sup> Those who claim that they are *pure in every way, like people* [MET] living in the light, but hate any of their fellow believers, are still *behaving in an impure manner, like* [MET] *people who are continually living* in darkness.

<sup>10</sup> But those who love their fellow believers *are continuing to conduct their lives like people* who are living in the light. They are people who please God [LIT]. So you should love your fellow believers.

<sup>11</sup> But those who hate any of their fellow believers are still *conducting their lives in an impure way, like* [MET] *people who are living in darkness*. They do not know that they will eventually destroy themselves *eternally*. They have become *spiritually blind* [PRS, MET], *unaware of spiritual truth*.

*I am writing all these matters to you because I know that God has forgiven your sins and also because you have come to know the Father and Christ, who has always existed, and because you have overcome the evil one.*

*1 John 2:12-14*

<sup>12-13</sup> I am writing *this* to you *whom I love as though* [MET] *you were my little children*, to you who are *spiritually mature people who are like* [MET] fathers, and to you *spiritually vigorous/strong people who are like* [MET] young men. Remember that your sins have been forgiven {God has forgiven your sins} on account of what Christ [MTY] *has done*. You now know *Christ, the one* who always existed. You have defeated the evil one, *Satan*.

<sup>14</sup> *I will say it again*: I have written *this* to you because you have come to know the Father, because you now know *Christ, the one* who always existed, because you are *spiritually strong*, because you continue to *obey God's word*,

and because you have defeated the evil one, *Satan*.

*Do not esteem the evil manner in which other people in the world live, since you want to live forever.*

*1 John 2:15-17*

<sup>15</sup> Do not desire to conduct you lives in the evil manner in which godless people in the world [MTY] conduct their lives, and do not love anything that the evil people in the world [MTY] consider to be good. Those who desire to conduct their lives in the evil manner in which other people of the world [MTY] conduct their lives do not really love God, their Father, at all.

<sup>16</sup> Keep in mind that all the evil human desires in the world are actions/things such as these: People desire to do what their self-directed nature strongly desires. People desire to possess whatever ◀appeals to their senses/they see or hear about▶. People boast about the material things that they possess. Such evil ways of living do not originate/come from the Father! Instead they originate/come from the ◀godless people in the world/people in the world who conduct their lives in a manner that displeases God▶ [MTY]!

<sup>17</sup> The godless people in the world [MTY], along with what they desire, will disappear, but those who do what God wants them to do will live forever! You know that it is now the final period of this age when there are liars who deny that Jesus is God's Chosen One. But you have the power of God's Spirit and you know what is true and what is false. So continue to live according

to the true message that you heard when you began to believe in Christ, in order that you may continue to live united both to God's Son and to the Father.

### *1 John 2:18-25*

<sup>18</sup> *You who are very dear to me*, it is now ◀the final part [MTY] of this age/the final period of time before Jesus returns▶. Just like you heard from us apostles that a person who opposes Christ will come/appear, even now there are many people who oppose Christ. That is why we know that it is the final part of this age (OR, before Jesus returns) [MTY].

<sup>19</sup> The people who oppose Christ refused to remain in our congregations, but they never really ◀belonged with us/were fellow believers▶. If they had ◀belonged with us/been fellow believers▶, they would have remained with us. But because they left, everyone can clearly know that none of them ◀belongs with us/is a fellow believer▶.

<sup>20</sup> But as for you, you have been given the power of God's Spirit, which comes from Christ (OR, God), the Holy One. As a result, you all know how to ◀distinguish false teaching from/recognize what is false teaching and what is▶ the true message.

<sup>21</sup> I am writing this letter to you, not because you do not know what is God's true message, but because you do know what it is. You also know that no false message originates/comes from God, who is the source of all truth.

<sup>22</sup> The *worst* liars are the ones who deny that Jesus is ◀the Messiah/the one whom God chose to rescue us▶. They are *the ones that we told you about*, the ones who oppose Christ. They refuse to acknowledge/admit that *God* is the Father and that *Jesus* is *his* Son (OR, the one who is also God).

<sup>23</sup> Those who refuse to acknowledge/admit that *Jesus* is *God's* Son do not have a relationship with the Father. But those who acknowledge/admit that *Jesus* is *God's* Son *not only have a relationship with God's Son, but they have a relationship with the Father also*.

<sup>24</sup> So, as for you, you must continue to conduct your lives according to *the true message* that you heard when you began [MTY] *to believe in Christ*. If you continue to *do that*, you will continue to have a close relationship with both *God's* Son and the Father.

<sup>25</sup> And what God told us is that *he will cause us to live forever!*

*Continue to conduct your lives according to what you were originally taught by God's Spirit.*

*1 John 2:26-27*

<sup>26</sup> I have written this to you to ◀warn you about/tell you to beware of▶ those *who want to deceive you concerning the truth about Christ*.

<sup>27</sup> As for you, God's Spirit, whom you received from Christ, remains in you. So you do not need anyone to teach you *anything else that they claim/say is the truth*. God's Spirit is teaching you *all of God's truth that you need to know*. God's Spirit is truthful and never says anything that is false. So

continue to conduct your lives in the way that *he* has taught you.

*Continue to live united to Christ, so that you will be confident that he will accept you when he returns.*

*1 John 2:28-29*

<sup>28</sup> Now, while some people are trying to persuade you to accept their false teaching, I urge you, who are all very dear to me, to continue to have a close relationship with Christ. We need to do that in order that we may be confident that he will accept us when he comes back again. If we do that, we will not be ashamed when we stand before him when he comes.

<sup>29</sup> Since you know that Christ always does what is right, you know that all those who continue doing what is right are the ones who have become children of God.

### 3

*Do not allow anyone to seduce you to sin, because you are God's children, and his children maintain themselves free from evil behavior by not continuing to sin as the devil's children do.*

*1 John 3:1-10*

<sup>1</sup> Think about how much our heavenly Father loves us! He allows us to ◀say that we are/be called▶ his children! And it is indeed true that we are his children. But people in the world [MTY] who are unbelievers have not understood who God is. So they do not understand who we are, that we belong to God.

<sup>2</sup> Dear friends, even though ◀at present/now▶ we are God's children, *he* has not yet ◀made clear/revealed▶ *to us* what we will be like *in the future*. However, we know that when *Christ* comes back again, we will be like him, because we will see what he is *really* like.

<sup>3</sup> So, all those who confidently expect *to see Christ as he actually is/what Christ is like when he returns* must keep themselves pure in every way, just like Christ, who is pure in every way.

<sup>4</sup> But everyone who continues sinning is refusing to obey *God's* laws, because that is what sin is, refusing to obey *God's* laws.

<sup>5</sup> You know that Christ came in order to completely remove *the guilt of* our sins. You know also that he never sinned.

<sup>6</sup> Those who continue *doing what* Christ wants them to, do not continue sinning repeatedly. But those who repeatedly sin have not understood *who Christ is*, nor have they had a close relationship with him.

<sup>7</sup> So I urge you, who are all very dear to me, do not let anyone deceive you *by telling you that it is all right to sin*. If you continue doing what is right, you are righteous, just like Christ is righteous.

<sup>8</sup> But if anyone continues sinning, he is like the devil, because the devil has always been sinning. And the reason why God's Son became a human being was to destroy what the devil has done.

<sup>9</sup> People do not continue sinning repeatedly if they have become children of God. Instead, *they continue to conduct their lives according to*

*the character/nature that God produced in them [MET]. They cannot continually sin because God has caused them to become his children.*

<sup>10</sup> Those who are God's children are clearly different from those who are ◀the devil's/Satan's▶ children. *The way that we can know who are Satan's children is this: Those who do not do what is right are not God's children. Specifically, those who do not love their fellow believers are not God's children. Instead, they are Satan's children.*

*Because we have been changed from being spiritually dead people to being spiritually alive people, we should love each other genuinely by helping our fellow believers who are in need.*

*1 John 3:11-18*

<sup>11</sup> The message that you heard when you first [MTY] *believed in Christ* is that we should love each other.

<sup>12</sup> *We should not hate others as did Adam's son, Cain, who belonged to Satan, the evil one. Because Cain hated his younger brother, he murdered him. ◀I will tell you about why he murdered his brother./Do you know why he murdered his brother [RHQ]?▶ It was because Cain habitually conducted his life in an evil way, and he hated his younger brother because his younger brother conducted his life righteously.*

<sup>13</sup> You should not be amazed/surprised, my fellow believers, when *unbelievers [MTY] hate you.*

<sup>14</sup> We know that we have been changed from *being spiritually dead [MET] to being spiritually alive.* We know this because we love our fellow

believers. *Those who do not love their fellow believers* are still *spiritually* [MET] dead.

<sup>15</sup> Those who hate *any of* their fellow believers, *God considers* [MET] them *to be* murderers. And you know that no murderer has eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> The way that we now know *how to truly* love *our fellow believers* is *by remembering* that Christ ◀voluntarily died/gave his life▶ for us. So, *when our fellow believers need something, we should be willing to help them. We should even be willing to die for them.*

<sup>17</sup> Many of us have the things that are necessary for us to live in this world. If we become aware that any of our fellow believers do not have what they need and *if we* refuse to ◀provide for them/give to them what they need▶, it is clear that we do not love God *as we claim/say that we do.*

<sup>18</sup> *I say to* all of you whom I love dearly, let us not merely say [MTY] that *we love our fellow believers!* Let us genuinely/really love them by doing things *to help them!*

*We must believe in God's Son and love each other in order to be confident that we have a close relationship with God and that we will receive what we ask from him.*

*1 John 3:19-24*

<sup>19</sup> When we *truly love our fellow believers*, we can be sure that we are *conducting our lives according to* the true message. *As a result, we will not feel guilty/ashamed when we talk* [MTY] to God.

<sup>20</sup> *We can pray confidently, because although we might feel guilty/ashamed about our sins, God is ◀greater/more worthy to be trusted▶ than what we feel. He knows everything about us.*

<sup>21</sup> *Dear friends, when we do not feel guilty because of our sins, we can pray to God confidently.*

<sup>22</sup> *And, when we confidently pray to him and request something from him, we receive it because we do what he commands us to do, and because we do what pleases him.*

<sup>23</sup> *I will tell you what he commands us to do: We must believe that Jesus Christ is ◀his Son/the one who is also God▶. We must also love each other, just like he commanded us to do.*

<sup>24</sup> *Those who do what God commands are ones who have a close relationship with God, and God has a close relationship with them. I will tell you how we can be sure that God has a close relationship with us: It is because we have his Spirit, whom he gave to us, that we can be sure that God has a close relationship with us.*

## 4

*Continue to test the teachings you hear to know whether or not they are from God. You should test those who teach them by whether or not they acknowledge that Jesus Christ came in human form and also by what kind of people listen to that kind of teaching.*

*1 John 4:1-6*

<sup>1</sup> *Dear friends, many people who have a false message are teaching it to people [MTY]. So do not trust every message that someone claims/says*

*that God's Spirit [MTY] gave to him.* Instead, ◀test/think carefully about▶ the teachings that *you hear* in order to know whether they are from God or not.

<sup>2</sup> *I will tell you how to recognize teachings that come from the Spirit of God: Those who affirm/say that Jesus Christ came from God to become a human like us are teaching a message that is from God.*

<sup>3</sup> But those who do not affirm/say *that about Jesus* are not *teaching a message* from God. *They are teachers who oppose Christ.* You have heard that people like that are coming *to be among us.* Even now they are already here!

<sup>4</sup> As for you who are very dear to me, you belong to God, and you have refused *the false messages* that those people *teach*, because God, who enables you *to do what he wants*, is ◀greater/more powerful▶ than ◀Satan/the devil▶, who enables ◀godless people/people who conduct their lives in a way that displeases God▶ [MTY].

<sup>5</sup> As for *those who are teaching what is false*, they are ◀godless people/people whose lives are displeasing to God▶ [MTY]. Because of that, they teach what ◀godless people/people whose lives are displeasing to God▶ [MTY] want to hear. That is why the ◀godless people/people whose lives displease God▶ [MTY] listen to them.

<sup>6</sup> As for us (*exc*), *because* we belong to God, whoever ◀knows/has a close relationship with▶ God listens to us. *But* those who do not belong to God do not listen to us. That is how we can know

whether *the things that people are teaching* [MTY] are true or whether they are false, and deceiving people.

*We must love each other. God shows us what real love is.*

*1 John 4:7-11*

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, we must love each other, because God *enables us* to love *each other*, and because those who love *their fellow believers* have become God's children and ◀know/have a close relationship with▶ him.

<sup>8</sup> God's *nature* is to love *all people*. So those who do not love *their fellow believers* do not ◀know/have a relationship with▶ God.

<sup>9</sup> I will tell you how God has shown us *that he* loves us: He sent ◀his only Son/the only one who was also God▶ *to live* on the earth to enable us to live *eternally* as a result of *our trusting in what he accomplished for us by dying for us*.

<sup>10</sup> And God has shown us *what it means* to love another person: *It does not mean* that we loved God, but *it means* that God loved us and sent ◀his Son/the one who was also God▶ to sacrifice *his life* in order that *our sins might be forgiven* {*he might forgive our sins*}.

<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God loves us like that, we certainly ought to love each other!

*In order to be assured that we are conducting our lives according to God's character, we must love God and our fellow believers, because God loved us first.*

*1 John 4:12-21*

<sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God. *Nevertheless*, if we love each other, *it is evident that* God lives within us and that we love others just like he *intends/wants us to do*.

<sup>13</sup> *I will tell you* how we can be sure that we have a close relationship with God and that God is within us: He has put his Spirit within us.

<sup>14</sup> We *apostles* have seen ◀God's Son/the one who is also God▶, and *we tell people* that the Father sent him to save *the people in the world* [MTY] *from being punished for their sins*.

<sup>15</sup> So those who affirm/say that Jesus is the ◀Son of/one who is also▶ God, God is within them, and they have a close relationship with God.

<sup>16</sup> We have experienced how God loves us and we believe that he loves us. *As a result, we love others*. *Because* God's *nature* is to love people, those who continue to love *others* have a close relationship with God, and God has a close relationship with them.

<sup>17</sup> We *should* love others completely. And if we do that, when the time comes for *him to judge* us, we will be confident *that he will not condemn us* (OR, *that we have a close relationship with him*). *We will be confident of that* because of our *conducting our lives* in this world as Christ did.

<sup>18</sup> We will not be afraid of God if we *truly* love *him*, because those who love God completely cannot possibly be afraid of *him*. *We would be* afraid only *if we thought that he would punish* us. So those who are afraid of God certainly are not loving God completely.

<sup>19</sup> We love *God and our fellow believers* because God loved us first.

<sup>20</sup> So those who say “I love God” but hate a fellow believer are lying. Those who do not love one of their fellow believers, whom they have seen, certainly cannot be loving God, whom they have not seen.

<sup>21</sup> Keep in mind that this is what God has commanded us: If we love him, we must also love our fellow believers.

## 5

*Those who believe that Jesus is God's Chosen One are people who have been caused to live spiritually, and they love their fellow believers. They obey God's commands and overcome the evils of human society.*

*1 John 5:1-5*

<sup>1</sup> All those who believe that Jesus is the ◀Messiah/person God sent to rescue us▶ are ones who *have truly* become children of God. And everyone who loves *a man who is* someone's father will *be expected to* love that man's children as well. *Similarly, those who love God, who has caused them to become his children* [MET], *should love their fellow believers, whom God has also caused to become his children.*

<sup>2</sup> The way we can be sure that we *truly* love God's children is this: We are loving them when we love God and do what he commands *us to do*.

<sup>3</sup> *I say this* because our obeying what God commands *us to do* is *the same as* loving him. And it is not burdensome/difficult for *us to do* what God commands *us to do*.

<sup>4</sup> All of us whom God has caused to become his children have been able to successfully resist ◀doing what/conducting our lives like▶ the people [MTY] *who* oppose God do. It is *only* by our trusting *in Christ* that we are able to ◀resist doing what/conducting our lives like▶ people in the world who are opposed to God [MTY] do.

<sup>5</sup> ◀*I will tell you* who are the ones who are able to resist doing what the people who are opposed to God do./Do you know who are the ones who are able to resist conducting their lives like the people who are opposed to God [MTY] do? [RHQ]▶ It is those who believe that Jesus is ◀God's Son/the man who is also God▶.

*Jesus came from God to earth. Those who believe in and live united to him have eternal life.*

*1 John 5:6-12*

<sup>6</sup> *Think about Jesus Christ. He is the one who came to earth from God. God showed that he had truly sent Jesus when Jesus was baptized in water [MTY] and when Jesus' blood flowed from his body when he died. God showed this not only when Jesus was baptized [MTY], but also when Jesus' blood flowed from his body when he died. And God's Spirit declares truthfully that Jesus Christ came from God. The Spirit always speaks what is true.*

<sup>7</sup> *There are three ways by which we know that Christ came from God.*

<sup>8</sup> *Those three ways are: What God's Spirit tells us, what God said when Jesus was baptized [MTY] in/with water, and Jesus' blood that flowed from his body when he died on the cross. These three*

things all tell us the same thing, *that Jesus came from God.*

<sup>9</sup> We *usually* believe what *other* people say. But what God says is more *reliable/trustworthy than what people say*. So we *must* believe what God has said is true *about* ◀his Son/the one who is also God▶.

<sup>10</sup> Those who trust in the Son of God know within their ◀inner beings/hearts▶ that *what God says about his Son is true*. But those who refuse to believe that *what* God says is true are saying that God is a liar, because they refuse to believe what God has said about ◀his Son/the one who is also God▶.

<sup>11</sup> This is what *God* says to us: "I have given you eternal life!" We will live forever if we have a close relationship with his Son.

<sup>12</sup> Those who have *a close relationship with God's Son* (OR, who have accepted what God's Son *has done for them*) have *already* begun to live *forever*. But those who do not have a relationship with ◀God's Son/the one who is also God▶ (OR, who have not accepted what God's Son has done for them) have not begun to live *forever*.

*We have a close relationship with God because we are united to his Son. Because of that relationship, we have eternal life.*

*1 John 5:13-21*

<sup>13</sup> I have written this *letter* to you who believe that Jesus is [MTY] ◀God's Son/the one who is also God▶ in order that you may know that you have eternal life.

<sup>14</sup> Because we have a close relationship with him, we are very confident that he hears us when we ask him *to do anything* that is in accordance with ◀his will/what he desires▶.

<sup>15</sup> And since we know that he hears whenever we ask *him for something*, we also know that *it is as though* he has *already* done what we requested him *to do*.

<sup>16</sup> Those who see one of their fellow believers sinning in a way that does not result in being eternally separated from God should ask *God to help that fellow believer*; and *as a result* God will help that fellow believer and enable him or her to live *eternally*. *But some people* sin in a manner that causes them to be separated from God eternally. I am not saying that *you should* ask *God to help* people who sin like that.

<sup>17</sup> Everyone who does what is wrong is sinning, but there are some sins that do not cause a person to be separated from God.

<sup>18</sup> We know that if a person has new life from God [MET], that person does not continue sinning. Instead, the ◀Son of/one who is also▶ God protects him so that *Satan*, the evil one, does not harm him *spiritually*.

<sup>19</sup> We know that we belong to God, and *we know* that the evil one controls all *the evil people in* [MTY] the world.

<sup>20</sup> We also know that ◀God's Son/the one who is also God▶ has come *to us*, and *we know* that he has enabled us to know God, the one who is really/truly God. So now we have a close relationship with *God because* we belong to Jesus Christ, the one who is the ◀Son of/man who is

also► God. Jesus Christ is truly God, and *he is the one who enables us to have eternal life.*

<sup>21</sup> *I say to you who are very dear to me, guard/keep yourselves from worshipping gods that have no real power!*

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Note that in addition to the rules above, revising and adapting God's Word involves a great responsibility to be true to God's Word. See Revelation 22:18-19.

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