



## Unknown Victory

### Recap

#### What Kind of Love?

God is **love**

But what kind of **love**?

Our culture has **reversed** "God is love" to "Love is god"

To truly understand God's love, it must be held in **tension** with God's character

God's love is **pursuing**,  
but waits for us to **respond**

God's love is **unconditional**,  
but is not **blind** our choices

God's love is **gracious**,  
but not **affirming** of our sin

God's love is **transformative**,  
but we give it **permission**

God's love is **just**, and  
not **defined** by culture

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Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come **boldly** and confidently into God's presence. [Ephesians 4:12](#)

When I think of all this, **I fall to my knees** and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. **Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.** [Vs 14-17](#)

## Recap

### How to Handle Christian Conflict

**Preferences**-Gracious space  
**Behaviour**-Discipleship to maturity  
**Error**-Loving private dialogue

How would you define a "**victorious**" Christian life?

Are you **living** it?

"The victorious Christian life is a life lived in triumph over '**everything** in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life'"

"A victorious Christian is one who seeks God and to please Him in **all** his ways."

"Victory refers to that **inner** peace of God which surpasses all understanding. It's the joy of the Lord which is our strength. It is the that inner confidence that overcomes discouragement, doubt and unbelief."

## Harshness of 1 John

If we claim we have no sin, we are only **fooling** ourselves and not living in the truth. [1:8](#) But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they **belong** to the devil [3:8](#)

If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a **liar** and is not living in the truth. [2:4](#) for when you love the world, you do **not** have the love of the Father in you [2:15](#)

If anyone claims, "I am living in the light," but hates a fellow believer, that person is still living in **darkness**. [2:9](#) When they left, it **proved** that they did not belong with us. [2:19](#)

And who is a **liar**? Anyone who says that Jesus is not the Christ. [2:22](#)

Anyone who denies the Father and the Son is an **antichrist** [2:22](#)

1 John 5:1-5

John is going to test (yes again) the **depth** and **authenticity** of our faith. He will not accept cliché answers or allow our personal **preferences** to cloud this relationship. From verse 1 to 5 John will show a **progression**. Be warned, we can't skip any of the steps if we want to claim **victory**

To me, the glory of our Christian faith is never that it is religious, but that it is so gloriously **secular**. It is designed to produce **life**, to fit us for **living**, and thus to be the kind of person that God intended [us] to be when he made [us] in the beginning -- **confident, able, adequate**. Ray Stedman

Everyone who **believes** that Jesus **is** the **Christ** has **become** a child of God. *Vs 1a*

## Vs 1-The Christ

To be **anointed**, literally, is to have sacred **oil** poured on one's head, because God has chosen the person for a **special task**. Priests and kings were anointed, and occasionally prophets. **Kings** were anointed during their coronation rather than receiving a crown.

Even though prophets and priests were anointed, the phrase "anointed one" or "the Lord's anointed" was most often used to refer to a **king**.

The overriding biblical imagery of the word "Messiah" or "Christ" is that of a king chosen by **God**.

## Vs 1-The Christ

The **Messiah** would come and **open the way to God**. This is the **core** of Jesus ministry and this is what we place our **belief** in.

Instead of bringing about the onset of redemption, messiah will herald its **completion**...Messiah has been waiting in the wings, as it were, since the very beginning of history, ready to come forth when the time is right. [Rabbi Arthur Green](#)

## Vs 1-The Becoming

What are you **becoming**?

I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and **believe** in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life. [John 5:24](#)

I tell you the truth, anyone who **believes** has eternal life. [John 6:47](#)

Belief **directs** behaviour. We **become** what we believe

And everyone who **loves** the Father **loves** his children, too. [Vs 1b](#)

## Vs 1-Proof of Life

...loves the Father=loves the children...

John has made this his **underlying** theme throughout his letter. It is an unescapable **proof** of the authenticity of our faith and our love for God.

When we **hate** our brothers and sisters we show God we **hate** Him

Love is a **practice** to be mastered [Erich Fromm](#)

We **know** we love God's children **if** we love God and obey his **commandments**. [Vs 2](#)

## Vs 2-Power of Love

Love and obedience to John are **inseparable**. Love must **fuel** obedience, not the other way around. We stop obeying as our love grows **colder**

make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the **same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose**. [Philippians 2:2](#)

## Vs 2-No Loop Holes

"Obedience is the practical **acceptance** of the **authority** and will of God. It includes both **submitting** to Him and then expressing that submission in actions, words and thoughts."

What we **actually** practice is **partial** obedience with a great deal of **rationalization** and **self justification**

**if** you love me, **obey** my commandments. [John 14:15](#)

Loving God means **keeping** his **commandments**, and his commandments are not **burdensome**. [Vs 3](#)

### **Vs 3-Guard Your Beliefs**

**Keep** (tereo from teros - a guard or warden) means to keep an eye on, to keep watch over or to attend carefully. The idea is guarding something which is in one's possession, watching as one would some precious thing. Jesus uses tereo in his "job description" of a genuine Christ follower (disciple) in Mt 28:20 ("teaching them to observe all that I commanded you"). Note that tereo is in the **present tense** which speaks of one's lifestyle, of **general direction**, not of absolute perfection!

### **Vs 3-Lie of Disobedience**

Obedience should be a delight not a **dread**

"You see, John knows that **disobedience** to God's commands is a far more crushing weight than obedience is.

Christians often talk about the cost of discipleship, how following Jesus Christ does indeed cost us. But people rarely talk about the cost of **non-discipleship**, that a Christian who chooses a path of disobedience to God chooses a much more **painful** and **difficult** path, because the weight of disobedience is a **crushing** weight" [Timothy Peck](#)

### **Vs 3-Lie of Disobedience**

To **depart** from righteousness is to choose a life of crushing burdens, failures, and disappointments, a life caught in the toils of endless problems that are **never really solved** [Dallas Willard](#)

Those who accept my commandments and **obey them are the ones who love me**. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and **reveal** myself to each of them. [John 14:21](#)

For every child of God **defeats** this evil world, and we **achieve** this victory through our **faith**. Vs 4

### Vs 4-Feeling Victorious??

**verb nikao (defeats)** was popular "among the Greeks, who believed that ultimate victory could not be achieved by mortals, but only by the gods. They even had a goddess named Nike, the goddess of victory who aided Zeus in his battle against the Titans. Against that pagan backdrop, it was stunning for the New Testament to assign to Christians the invincibility associated only with the god

'The **process** (verb) of defeating'

### Vs 4-Feeling Victorious??

How often do you feel **victorious** in your faith? If not, is it because you are **focusing** on the **wrong** thing?

**Prestidigitation meaning:** Performance of or skill in performing magic or conjuring tricks with the hands; sleight of hand. Skill or cleverness, especially in **deceiving** others. The art of **misdirection**

We aren't fighting **THE** battle. The enemy has already been defeated. He is trying to **lure** you into joining him in his defeat. "Did God really say..."

And **who** can win this battle against the world? **Only** those who **believe** that Jesus is the Son of God. Vs 5

By **believe** we **overcome**

We are victorious not by what we have done or what we have accomplished. Christians have **historically** mistaken this concept. Our victory is not, will not, be on this **earth**. Our contribution to the victory is **acknowledging** it has been done and by who has **accomplished** it. And then placing our belief (truth that affects behaviour) in Jesus. Who do you think has the **tougher** job?

Only those who **believe** that Jesus is the **Son** of God

### How Does the Enemy Rob Us of Victory

Focus on the **wrong** thing "Did God really say..."

Make victory dependent on our **behaviour**

Make us think we are defeated every time we **sin**

Make us believe we are all **alone**

Make us believe we are beyond God's **reach**

**Verse 1a:** starting point, believe=become

**Verse 1b-3:** Proof of faith; love God, love His children, obey His commands, keep His commands

**Verse 4-5:** the tools of victory, faith and belief

Victory is in **trusting**, not trying. [Joseph Ola Okunola](#)

I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many **trials and sorrows**. But take heart, because **I** have **overcome** the world. [John 16:33](#)

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