"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:1–3)
What Is Fellowship?

1. How does 1 John 1:1 combat the errors of the Gnostics?

2. Define “fellowship” (1:3) [Gr. koinonia].

3. How is our joy made full (1:4)?

4. Explain the phrase, “God is light” (1:5).

5. How does one “walk in the light” (1:7)?

6. Can one “walk in the light” and “walk in darkness” at the same time?

7. How does the blood of Christ cleanse a Christian of sin (1:7)?

8. Are a Christian’s sins forgiven automatically or must they do something to obtain it?

9. What are we to confess before God will forgive us (1:9)?

10. Why did John write this epistle (2:1)?

11. Define “advocate” (2:1) [Gr. parakletos].

12. Define “atoning sacrifice” (2:2) [propitiation, NKJV; Gr. hilasmos].
1 John 2:3–14

An Old Commandment

3 Now by this we know that we have come to know God: if we keep his commandments. 4 The one who says “I have come to know God” and yet does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in such a person. 5 But whoever obeys his word, truly in this person the love of God has been perfected. By this we know that we are in him. 6 The one who says he resides in God ought himself to walk just as Jesus walked. 7 Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have already heard. 8 On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. 9 The one who says he is in the light but still hates his fellow Christian is still in the darkness. 10 The one who loves his fellow Christian resides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. 11 But the one who hates his fellow Christian is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. 12 I am writing to you, little children, that your sins have been forgiven because of his name. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, that you have known him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young people, that you have conquered the evil one. 14 I have written to you, children, that you have known the Father. I have written to you, fathers, that you have known him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young people, that you are strong, and the word of God resides in you, and you have conquered the evil one.

1. How can you be sure that you know Christ (2:3)?

2. How is God’s love perfected in us (2:5)?

3. What is the “old commandment” (2:7)?

4. How is “the darkness” passing away (2:8)?

5. In this context, how can one “hate” his brother (2:9)?

6. What is the “cause of stumbling” (2:10)?

7. How do some people lose their sight (2:11)?

8. Who are the “little children” (2:12)? Why did John write to them?

9. Who are the “fathers” (2:13)? Why did John write to them?

10. What did John tell the “young people” (2:13)?

11. How do we know if we are strong (2:14)?
1 John 2:15–27

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him, 16 because all that is in the world (the desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes and the arrogance produced by material possessions) is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away with all its desires, but the person who does the will of God remains forever. 18 Children, it is the last hour, and just as you heard that the antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have appeared. We know from this that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us, because if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. But they went out from us to demonstrate that all of them do not belong to us.

20 Nevertheless you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. 21 I have not written to you that you do not know the truth, but that you do know it, and that no lie is of the truth. 22 Who is the liar but the person who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This one is the antichrist: the person who denies the Father and the Son. 23 Everyone who denies the Son does not have the Father either. The person who confesses the Son has the Father also. 24 As for you, what you have heard from the beginning must remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. 25 Now this is the promise that he himself made to us: eternal life. 26 These things I have written to you about those who are trying to deceive you. 27 Now as for you, the anointing that you received from him resides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things, it is true and is not a lie. Just as it has taught you, you reside in him.
1 John 2:28–3:9

28 And now, little children, remain in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink away from him in shame when he comes back. 29 If you know that he is righteous, you also know that everyone who practices righteousness has been fathered by him. 3:1 (See what sort of love the Father has given to us: that we should be called God’s children—and indeed we are! For this reason the world does not know us: because it did not know him. 2 Dear friends, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that whenever it is revealed we will be like him, because we will see him just as he is. 3 And everyone who has this hope focused on him purifies himself, just as Jesus is pure). 4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; indeed, sin is lawlessness. 5 And you know that Jesus was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6 Everyone who resides in him does not sin; everyone who sins has neither seen him nor known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you: The one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as Jesus is righteous. 8 The one who practices sin is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was revealed: to destroy the works of the devil. 9 Everyone who has been fathered by God does not practice sin, because God’s seed resides in him, and thus he is not able to sin, because he has been fathered by God.

Defining Sin

1. How can we have confidence (2:28)?

2. How do we know if one has been born of God (2:29)?

3. Why does the world “not know us” (3:1)?

4. According to 1 John 3:2, what has been revealed?

5. What is the “hope” mentioned in 1 John 3:3?

6. How is sin defined in 1 John 3:4?

7. Why was the Son of God manifested (3:5)

8. Does 1 John 3:6 teach it is impossible for a Christian to sin?

9. How do we know if one is righteous (3:7)?

10. How does Christ “destroy the works of the devil” (3:8)?

11. In what way can we say we are “not able to sin” (3:9)?
1 John 3:10–23

By this the children of God and the children of the devil are revealed: Everyone who does not practice righteousness—the one who does not love his fellow Christian—is not of God. 11 For this is the gospel message that you have heard from the beginning: that we should love one another, 12 not like Cain who was of the evil one and brutally murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his deeds were evil, but his brother’s were righteous. 13 Therefore do not be surprised, brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have crossed over from death to life because we love our fellow Christians. The one who does not love remains in death. 15 Everyone who hates his fellow Christian is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. 16 We have come to know love by this: that Jesus laid down his life for us; thus we ought to lay down our lives for our fellow Christians. 17 But whoever has the world’s possessions and sees his fellow Christian in need and shuts off his compassion against him, how can the love of God reside in such a person? 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue but in deed and truth. 19 And by this we will know that we are of the truth and will convince our conscience in his presence, 20 that if our conscience condemns us, that God is greater than our conscience and knows all things. 21 Dear friends, if our conscience does not condemn us, we have confidence in the presence of God, 22 and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do the things that are pleasing to him. 23 Now this is his commandment: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he gave us the commandment.

Passing From Death To Life

1. How do we know if one is “not of God” (3:10)?

2. What message was taught “from the beginning” (3:11)?

3. Why did Cain murder his brother (3:12)?

4. How can one “remain in death” (3:14)?

5. How can we know if we have “crossed over from death to life” (3:14)?

6. Why is one who “hates his fellow Christian” a “murderer” (3:15)?


8. How do we know if “we are of the truth” (3:19)?

9. How can our conscience condemn us (3:20)?

10. Does God promise to give us everything we ask for (3:22)?

11. What commandment has been given to us (3:23)?
1 John 3:24–4:11

And the person who keeps his commandments resides in God, and God in him. Now by this we know that God resides in us: by the Spirit he has given us. 4:1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to determine if they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses Jesus as the Christ who has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God, and this is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming, and now is already in the world. 4 You are from God, little children, and have conquered them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world’s perspective and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God; the person who knows God listens to us, but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of deceit. 7 Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been fathered by God and knows God. 8 The person who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 By this the love of God is revealed in us: that God has sent his one and only Son into the world so that we may live through him. 10 In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, if God so loved us, then we also ought to love one another.

“Test The Spirits”

1. How do we know if God abides in us (3:24)?

2. How can we “test the spirits” (4:1)?

3. How do we “know the Spirit of God” (4:2)?

4. What is the “spirit of the antichrist” (4:3)?

5. According to John, what have we already “conquered” (4:4)?

6. How can we be certain if one knows God (4:6)?

7. According to 1 John 4:7, how can we know we have been born of God?

8. How was God’s love manifested toward us (4:9)?

9. Who or what is our “atonning sacrifice” (4:10)?

10. What should prompt us to love one another (4:11)?
1 John 4:12–5:5

Overcoming The World

1. How does God abide in us (4:12)?

2. How has God “given us of his Spirit” (4:13)?

3. What type of person does God abide in (4:15)?

4. What did John know and believe in (4:16)?

5. How has love been perfected among us (4:17)?

6. What should give us boldness in the day of judgment (4:17)?

7. How does perfect love drive out fear (4:18)?

8. What commandment do we have from God (4:21)?

9. How do we show love for the children of God (5:2)?

10. Why do God’s commandments “not weigh us down” (5:3)?

11. Today, “who is the person who has conquered the world” (5:5)?
1 John 5:6–13

Jesus Christ is the one who came by water and blood—not by the water only, but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. 7 For there are three that testify, 8 the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these three are in agreement. 9 If we accept the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, because this is the testimony of God that he has testified concerning his Son. 10 (The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has testified concerning his Son.) 11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 The one who has the Son has this eternal life; the one who does not have the Son of God does not have this eternal life. 13 I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Eternal Life

1. How did Christ come by “water and the blood” (5:6)?

Note On I John 5:7b, 8
“So far John has spoken of one witness, the Spirit. Now he introduces a corrective. There are in fact three witnesses. These are identified in the next verse as the Spirit, the water, and the blood. But users of the Authorized Version will be aware of a form of text which speaks first of three witnesses in heaven, and then of three witnesses on earth. The former three are the members of the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, while the latter three are the Spirit, the water, and the blood. This form of wording appears in no reputable modern version of the Bible as the actual text; most editions adopt the same practice as in the NIV of relegating the extra words to a footnote, while some (such as the RSV and NEB) totally ignore them. The words in fact occur in none of the Greek manuscripts of I John, except for a few late and worthless ones, and are not quoted by any early church writers, not even by those who would have joyfully seized upon this clear biblical testimony to the Trinity in their attacks on heretics; they probably owe their origin to some scribe who wrote them in the margin of his copy of I John; later they were erroneously regarded as part of the text. Beyond any shadow of doubt the wording of the NIV text represents what John actually wrote. We must, therefore, confine our attention to the three witnesses of whom John did write, the Spirit, the water, and the blood.” (I. Howard Marshall, The Epistles of John, pp. 235, 236)

2. What is “the testimony of God” (5:9)?

3. What “testimony” do we have in ourselves (5:10)?

4. How could one make God a “liar” (5:10)?

5. Where can “eternal life” be found (5:11)?

6. How can we know that we have eternal life (5:13)?
1 John 5:14–21

14 And this is the confidence that we have before him: that whenever we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us in regard to whatever we ask, then we know that we have the requests that we have asked from him. 16 If anyone sees his fellow Christian committing a sin not resulting in death, he should ask, and God will grant life to the person who commits a sin not resulting in death. There is a sin resulting in death. I do not say that he should ask about that. 17 All unrighteousness is sin, but there is sin not resulting in death. 18 We know that everyone fathered by God does not sin, but God protects the one he has fathered, and the evil one cannot touch him. 19 We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. 20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us insight to know him who is true, and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This one is the true God and eternal life. 21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

The Petitions We Ask Of God

1. What does God promise to do when we pray (5:14)?
2. Are there any limitations as to what we can ask God for (5:14)?
3. What is the “sin resulting in death” (5:16)?
4. Under what circumstances would it be wrong to pray for one (5:16)?
5. How does John define “sin” in 1 John 5:17?
6. In what way can “the evil one” not “touch” the righteous (5:18)?
7. What “insight” has God given us (5:20)?
8. What are the “little children” to stay away from (5:21)?

Whoever Loves (4:7)  
Believes (5:1)  
Acknowledges (2:23)  
Confesses (4:2)  
Obeys (3:24)  
Practices Righteousness (3:7)  
Is Born Of God
2 John

1 From the elder, to an elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth (and not I alone, but also all those who know the truth), 2 because of the truth that resides in us and will be with us forever. 3 Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Son of the Father, in truth and love. 4 I rejoiced greatly because I have found some of your children living according to the truth, just as the Father commanded us. 5 But now I ask you, lady (not as if I were writing a new commandment to you, but the one we have had from the beginning), that we love one another. 6 (Now this is love: that we walk according to his commandments.) This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning; thus you should walk in it. 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, people who do not confess Jesus as Christ coming in the flesh. This person is the deceiver and the antichrist! 8 Watch out, so that you do not lose the things we have worked for, but receive a full reward. 9 Everyone who goes on ahead and does not remain in the teaching of Christ does not have God. The one who remains in this teaching has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house and do not give him any greeting, 11 because the person who gives him a greeting shares in his evil deeds. 12 Though I have many other things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink, but I hope to come visit you and speak face to face, so that our joy may be complete. 13 The children of your elect sister greet you.

Faithful Christians

1. Who is the “elect lady and her children” (1:1)?

2. Why did John love the “elect lady” (1:2)?

3. How were the “elect lady’s” children behaving (1:4)?

4. What does it mean to live “according to the truth” (1:4)?

5. What commandment did John write about (1:5)?

6. How does John define “love” (1:6)?

7. Who are the “deceivers” in 2 John 7?

8. How could we “lose the things we worked for” (1:8)?

9. Define “go one ahead” (1:9) [transgress, NKJV; Gr. parabaino].

10. What is the “teaching of Christ”? Is this the teaching about Christ, or what Jesus taught? Is this the same as the gospel of Christ (1:9)?

11. How could we share in the evil deeds of another (1:11)?

12. What did John desire in 2 John 12?

13. Who are the “children of your elect sister” (1:13)?
Epistles of John and Jude

3 John

From the elder, to Gaius my dear brother, whom I love in truth. Dear friend, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul. For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, just as you are living according to the truth. 4 I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are living according to the truth. 5 Dear friend, you demonstrate faithfulness by whatever you do for the brothers (even though they are strangers). 6 They have testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. 7 For they have gone forth on behalf of “The Name,” accepting nothing from the pagans. 8 Therefore we ought to support such people, so that we become coworkers in cooperation with the truth. 9 I wrote something to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not acknowledge us. 10 Therefore, if I come, I will call attention to the deeds he is doing—the bringing of unjustified charges against us with evil words! And not being content with that, he not only refuses to welcome the brothers himself, but hinders the people who want to do so and throws them out of the church! 11 Dear friend, do not imitate what is bad but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does what is bad has not seen God. 12 Demetrius has been testified to by all, even by the truth itself. We also testify to him, and you know that our testimony is true. 13 I have many things to write to you, but I do not wish to write to you with pen and ink. 14 But I hope to see you right away, and we will speak face to face. 15 Peace be with you. The friends here greet you. Greet the friends there by name.

The Practice Of The Truth

1. What did John wish for Gaius (1:1–2)?

2. What two things did brethren say about Gaius (1:3)?

3. What was John’s greatest joy (1:4)?

4. Who are the “strangers” in 3 John 5?

5. How did the brethren testify of their love before the church (1:6)?

6. Who are the “coworkers” in 3 John 8?

7. Who was Diotrephes (1:9)?

8. Define “first among them” (1:9) [preeminence, NKJV; Gr. philoproteuo].

9. What four things was Diotrephes guilty of (1:10)?

10. Who are we to imitate (1:11)?

11. Who was Demetrius (1:12)? What did John say about him?

12. Why was John’s letter so brief (1:13)?

13. Who are the “friends” in 3 John 14?
Jude 1:1–8

1 From Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who are called, wrapped in the love of God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ. 2 May mercy, peace, and love be lavished on you! 3 Dear friends, although I have been eager to write to you about our common salvation, I now feel compelled instead to write to encourage you to contend earnestly for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. 4 For certain men have secretly slipped in among you—men who long ago were marked out for the condemnation I am about to describe—ungodly men who have turned the grace of our God into a license for evil and who deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. 5 Now I desire to remind you (even though you have been fully informed of these facts once for all) that Jesus, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, later destroyed those who did not believe. 6 You also know that the angels who did not keep within their proper domain but abandoned their own place of residence, he has kept in eternal chains in utter darkness, locked up for the judgment of the great Day. 7 So also Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighboring towns, since they indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire in a way similar to these angels, are now displayed as an example by suffering the punishment of eternal fire. 8 Yet these men, as a result of their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and insult the glorious ones.

Contend For The Faith

1. What was the relationship between Jude and Jesus (1:1)?

2. What group of people was Jude writing to (1:1)?

3. Why did Jude find it necessary to write this letter (1:3)?

4. Define “contend” (1:3) [Gr. epagonizomai].

5. How can one turn the grace of God “into a license for evil” (1:4)?

6. What did the Lord do to those who did not believe after they came out of Egypt (1:5)? What should we learn from this?

7. What is the “proper domain” of angels (1:6)? Where are these angels now? How long will they be there?

8. What caused the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (1:7)? Why are they “displayed” for us?

9. What sins are these dreamers guilty of (1:8)?
Jude 1:9–15

9 But even when Michael the archangel was arguing with the devil and debating with him concerning Moses' body, he did not dare to bring a slanderous judgment, but said, “May the Lord rebuke you!”
10 But these men do not understand the things they slander, and they are being destroyed by the very things that, like irrational animals, they instinctively comprehend. 11 Woe to them! For they have traveled down Cain's path, and because of greed have abandoned themselves to Balaam's error; hence, they will certainly perish in Korah's rebellion.
12 These men are dangerous reefs at your love feasts, feasting without reverence, feeding only themselves. They are waterless clouds, carried along by the winds; autumn trees without fruit—twice dead, uprooted; 13 wild sea waves, spewing out the foam of their shame; wayward stars for whom the utter depths of eternal darkness have been reserved.
14 Now Enoch, the seventh in descent beginning with Adam, even prophesied of them, saying, “Look! The Lord is coming with thousands and thousands of his holy ones, 15 to execute judgment on all, and to convict every person of all their thoroughly ungodly deeds that they have committed, and of all the harsh words that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

False Teachers

1. Who is Michael (1:9)? Where else do we read of him?
2. What dispute did Michael have with the devil (1:9)?
3. Why are these false teachers compared to irrational animals (1:10)?
4. How have these false teachers “traveled down Cain’s path” (1:11)?
5. How have these false teachers followed the example of Balaam (1:11)?
6. What was “Korah’s rebellion” (1:11)?
7. What is a “love feast” (1:12)?
8. What are false teachers compared to in Jude 12–13?
9. Who was Enoch (1:14)? What did he prophesy about?
10. When will the ungodly be convicted of their evil deeds (1:15)?
Jude 1:16–25

16 These people are grumblers and fault-finders who go wherever their desires lead them, and they give bombastic speeches, enchanting folks for their own gain. 17 But you, dear friends—recall the predictions foretold by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. 18 For they said to you, “In the end time there will come scoffers, propelled by their own ungodly desires.” 19 These people are divisive, worldly, devoid of the Spirit. 20 But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith, by praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 maintain yourselves in the love of God, while anticipating the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that brings eternal life. 22 And have mercy on those who waver; 23 save others by snatching them out of the fire; have mercy on others, coupled with a fear of God, hating even the clothes stained by the flesh. 24 Now to the one who is able to keep you from falling, and to cause you to stand, rejoicing, without blemish before his glorious presence, 25 to the only God our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time, and now, and for all eternity. Amen.

Abiding In The Love Of God

1. How are false teachers described in Jude 16?

2. What did John want the brethren to remember (1:17)?

3. What type of person causes division (1:19)?

4. What is “praying in the Holy Spirit” (1:20)?

5. How do we keep ourselves in the love of God (1:21)?

6. What kind of distinction are we to make in Jude 1:22?

7. What are “the clothes stained by the flesh” (1:23)?

8. How does God keep us from falling (1:24)?

9. How will the redeemed be presented before the presence of God (1:24)?

10. How does Jude describe God in verse 25?