

1 John 5:1-8

Read 1 John 5:1-4

1. John begins to summarize the content of his letter and he starts by juxtaposing faith and love. This will be the last time he speaks of love.
2. John is using a rather complex argument to make three points about those who have faith. Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ
 - a. Has been born of God
 - b. Loves whoever has been born of him
 - c. Embraces his instruction
3. To believe is to be born of God- to be born of God is to love- to love is to love the one to whom you owe your existence- to love the one to whom you owe your existence is to love all those who likewise owe their existence to him- to love in this way is to be the family of God.
4. Conclusion: You cannot love the Father without loving his children. You cannot love the children without loving the Father. To not love God's children is to be a secessionist and to be outside of his family. You cannot be an only child in God's house. To be in his house you must be a part of his family or you do not really love him.
5. Furthermore: A child of God embraces his Heavenly Father's commandments/instruction.
6. Here we should think about the commandments, not only as the list of what you should not do, but as the instruction on how we should live the Christian life.
7. We are able to do this because anyone who has been born of God has overcome the world. What is the victory that has done this? OUR FAITH! Why? How does faith change our perspective?

Read 1 John 5:5-8

8. To what historical event is John pointing with the reference to water and blood?
9. Who came by water only? John the Baptist
10. Jesus gives us all three- promises a helper, gives us the water of baptism, sheds his blood.
 - a. Luther writes: In German, one would say: "And these three belong together" The water cannot be proclaimed without the blood. Nor is the blood of Christ given without the water of Baptism. Besides the blood and the water do not come to us except at the instance of the Holy Spirit, who is in the Word. Therefore these three cannot be separated, but the three do one thing. They testify. Therefore these three must be accepted as one testimony. For these three constantly accompany one another, and through the Word and daily immersion and a perpetual baptism takes place, a perpetual shedding of the blood of Christ and of the Holy Spirit, a continual cleansing from sins.