

## 1 John 5:13-21 – That You May Know

Eternal life is in God's Son. Whoever has the Son has life. Whoever does not have the Son does not have life. It has been said that Freshmen don't know and know that they don't know. Sophomores think that they know but don't know. Juniors know but don't know that they know. Seniors know and know that they know. John sensed that some of the recipients of his letter were like Juniors. They knew God but didn't know for sure that they knew God. John wanted them to know for sure that they knew God and that they had eternal life.

### Read 1 John 5:13-15.

What was John's goal in writing to those who believed in the name of the Son of God? This is different from John's goal in the Gospel of John where he wanted people to believe in Jesus so that they would have eternal life. Note: KJV versions differ from ESV, NASB, NIV and most other modern versions by adding "and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God". (5:13)

In verse 13, John wanted the recipients of the letter to be confident that they had eternal life. In verse 14, what else should believers be confident about? In verse 13, the condition for having eternal life is believing in Jesus. What is the condition for being confident that God will hear our prayers? (5:14)

If God hears our prayers, what can we be confident of? (5:15)

### Read 1 John 5:16-17.

Verses 16 and 17 are challenging verses to understand exactly what John was saying. Normally John explains the terms he uses or the meaning is clear. That is not the case here. What should we do if we see our brother committing a sin not leading to death? What happens if we ask God concerning a brother committing a sin? There are a number of follow up questions. Is "death" referring to physical death or spiritual death? The same phrase "to death" is used in John 11:4 but in a different context (illness and not sin). What does "life" refer to? Who gives the life? Most translations translate "he will give" as "God will give". The translators have already answered the question for us. There is sin that leads to death. What is the sin which leads to death? What sin does not lead to death? (5:16)

Verse 17 says that all wrongdoing is sin. ESV has "wrongdoing". Other translations, like NASB and KJV, have "unrighteousness". 1 John 3:4 said that sin is lawlessness.

**Read 1 John 5:18-21.**

Verses 18, 19 and 20 all start with “we know”.

Verse 18 says we know that everyone born of God does not keep on sinning. NIV has “continue to sin”. Other versions simply have “does not sin”. 1 John 3:9 said that “no one born of God makes a practice of sinning”. One difference between the verses is that 1 John 3:9 used the word “do” or “practice” with “sin”. 5:18 used the verb “sin” in the present tense. Do you think there is a difference in meaning between these two verses? Explain. (5:18)

The second half of verse 18 mentions “he who was born of God”. Who does this refer to? NASB has “He” capitalized. NIV has “the One”. Their capitalization points the reader to one interpretation. What does this one who was born of God do for us? (5:18)

Based on verse 19, what do we know? Knowing that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one, how does that change our view of unbelievers, the news, entertainment...?

Based on verse 20, what do we know?

Verse 21 exhorts us to keep ourselves from idols. What kind of idols are common in today’s world?

What new truths did you learn from 1 John? What old truths were you reminded of?