

## 1 John: The Signs of Life

### 1:1-2:2 Summary ("Fellowship")

- 1:1-4, Objective: Fellowship
- 1:5-2:2, Obstacle: Sin

### 2:3-5:12, Exposition ("Know")

#### 2:3-28, First Cycle

- :3-6, Righteousness
- :7-17, Love
- :18-28, Belief

#### 2:29-4:6, Second Cycle

- 2:29-3:10, Righteousness
- 3:11-24, Love

## 2:7-17, The Sign of Love

### 7-8, Summary

- New Commandment
- Light

### 9-11, Love the Brethren

### 12-14, Assurance of their Faith

### 15-17, Love Not the World

1 Jn 2:13-17

# The First Cycle of Signs

## Things to Look For

- What is the difference between "knowing the Father" and "knowing him that is from the beginning"?
- What enables young men to use their strength to overcome the wicked one?
- What is the difference between the world and the earth?
- What two reasons does John give not to love the world?
- What OT passage is the basis for his warning in 2:16?

# 2:12-14 Assurance

	2:12-13a	2:13b-14
Little Children	12 your <b>sins are forgiven</b> you for his name's sake	13c ye have <b>known the Father</b>
Fathers	13a ye have <b>known him that is from the beginning</b>	14a ye have <b>known him that is from the beginning</b>
Young Men	<b>13b ye have overcome the wicked one</b>	14b ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, <b>and ye have overcome the wicked one</b>

## 13a Knowing him that is from the beginning

Php 3:7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of **the knowledge γινῶσις of Christ Jesus my Lord:** ... 10 **That I may know γινώσκω him**, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

# 2:13-14, The Victory of Youth

νικάω nikaō G3528 in 1 John

Jhn 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have **overcome** the world.

1 John 2:13, 14 young men ... have **overcome** the wicked one

1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have **overcome** them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

1Jn 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God **overcometh** the world: and this is the victory that **overcometh** the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that **overcometh** the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

14b ye are strong ...

Pro 20:29 The glory of **young men** is their **strength**: and the beauty of old men is the gray head.

... **the word of God abideth in you**

...

Psa 1:2 But his **delight** is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he **meditate** day and night.

Psa 119:9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto **according to thy word**.

Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the **sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**:

Jhn 15:7 If **ye abide in me**, and **my words abide in you**, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.



1 John 2:14

'I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.'

Why does John write to the young men?

3/16/2025  
Bilson Peters

# The Threat of the World (κόσμος *kosmos* G2889)

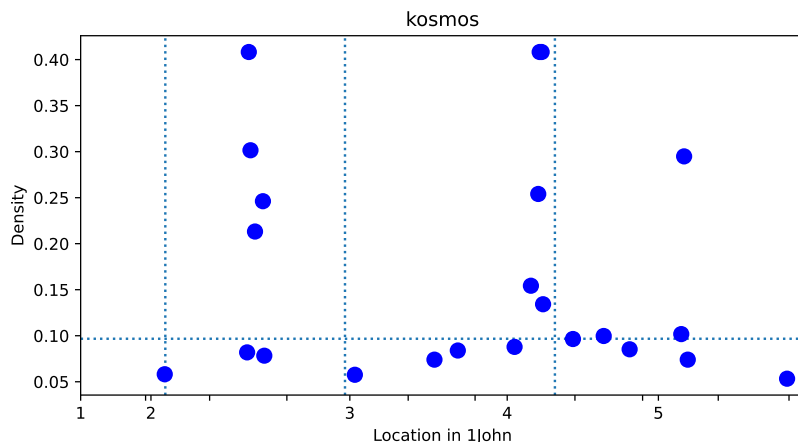
## World vs. Earth (γῆ *gē* G1093)

Jhn 8:23 And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this **world**; I am not of this **world**.

Col 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the **earth**.

1Pet. 3:3 Whose **adorning** (*kosmos*) let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

Westcott: “The fundamental idea of κόσμος in St John is that of the sum of created being which belongs to the sphere of human life as an ordered whole, considered apart from God.”

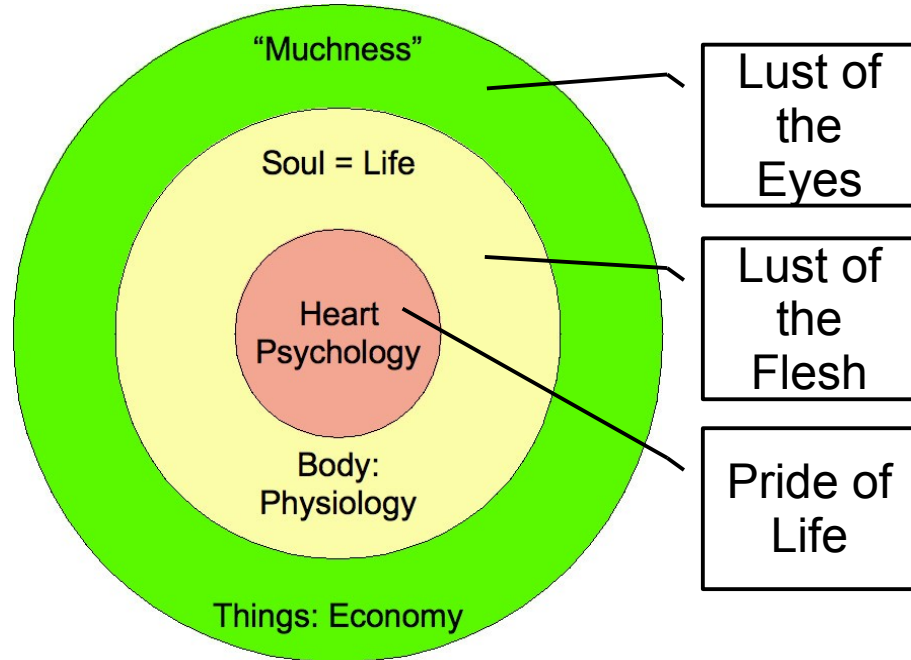


1Jn 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the **world**. 2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the **world**. 4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. 5 They are of the **world**: therefore speak they of the **world**, and the **world** heareth them.

1Jn 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the **world**: and this is the victory that overcometh the **world**, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the **world**, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

# Do you Love the World or the Father?

Deu 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt **love the LORD thy God** with all thine **heart**, and with all thy **soul**, and with all thy **might** (“muchness,” abundance, wealth).



Jas 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

## Case Studies

Ref	Topic	Choices
Num 6	Nazirite vow	Food, appearance, affection
Deut 17	Law of kingship	Horses, wives, gold
1 Ki 10-11	Solomon	Gold, horses, wives
Matt 13:4-8, 18-22 (Mk 4, Lk 8)	Parable of Sower	Wayside, stones, thorns
...		

<https://cyber-chapel.org/DoctrinalStudies/ThreeChoices/ThreeChoices.pdf>

# Useful References

## Fall and Victory

Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was **good for food** [lust of the flesh], and that it was **pleasant to the eyes** [lust of the eyes], and a tree to be **desired to make one wise** [pride of life], she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Mat 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these **stones be made bread** [lust of the flesh]. ... 6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, **cast thyself down** [into the temple, attracting great following: pride of life]: ... 8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and **sheweth him all the kingdoms** of the world, and the glory of them; [lust of the eyes].

## The World Passes Away ...

Jhn 12:31 Now is the judgment of this **world**: now shall the prince of this **world** be cast out.

1Co 7:29 But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; 30 And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; 31 And they that use this **world**, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this **world** passeth away.