

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 Panel

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

2:29-4:6, Second Panel

- 2:29-3:10, Righteousness
- 3:11-24, Love
- 4:1-6, Belief

4:7-5:12, Third Panel

- 4:7-5:1, Love and Belief
- 5:2-5, Love, Righteousness, and Belief
- 5:6-12, Witnesses to Love, Righteousness, and Belief

5:13-22, Closing Summary and Exhortation

The Second Panel of Signs

Things to Look For

- What made Abel's sacrifice "more excellent" than Cain's?
- What did Abel get from God that Cain did not, and why?
- Which came first—Abel's righteousness, or his sacrifice?
- What two implications does John draw from Cain's murder of Abel?
- What two implications does he draw from our Lord's death for us?
- How are all three signs reflected in 3:18? in 3:23?
- How should we respond if "our heart condemn[s] us"?
- What benefit do we have if our heart does not condemn us?

The Sign of Love, Second Panel

3:11-24, the Sign of Love

11, Summary from URD

12-17, Two Examples of Love with Implications

- 12-15, Negative: Cain
- 16-17, Positive: Christ

18-24, Assurances

2x “hereby we know ...”

- 18-21, our hearts
- 22-24a, our obedience
- 24b, the Spirit

1Jn 3:11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

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12 Not as **Cain**, who was of that wicked one, and **slew his brother**....

16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because **he laid down his life for us**: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. ...

18 My little children, let us not **love** in word, neither in tongue; but in **deed** and in **truth**. 19 And **hereby we know** that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. ... 23 And this is his **commandment**, That we should **believe** on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and **love** one another, as he gave us **commandment**. 24 ... And **hereby we know** that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

Cain's Works were Evil

3:12 Cain ... of ἐκ that wicked one

1 Jn 2:29; 3:9 ... born of ἐκ him/God

1 Jn 3:10 ... is not of ἐκ God

1 Jn 3:8 ... is of ἐκ the devil

Jn 8:44 Ye are of ἐκ your father the devil

his own works were evil ...

Gen 4:3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. 4a And Abel, he also brought of **the firstlings** of his flock and of the fat thereof.

Heb 11:4 **By faith** Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, ...

Gen 4:4b And the LORD **had respect** unto Abel and to his offering: 5 But unto Cain and to his offering he **had not respect**.

Psa 34:15 **The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous**, and his ears are open unto their cry. 16 The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

Hab. 1:13 Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and **canst not look on iniquity**:

Heb 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which **he obtained witness** that he was righteous,

Pro 15:8 **The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination** to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

Pro 21:27 **The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination**: how much more, when he bringeth it with a wicked mind?

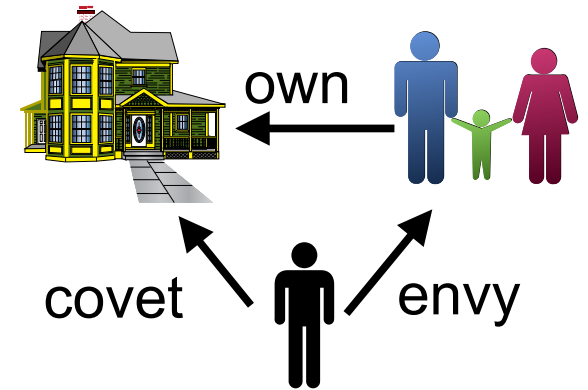
Why did Cain kill Abel?

Coveting and Envy

1Co 13:4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; **charity envieth not**; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, ...

Rom 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, **Thou shalt not covet**. 8 But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. 9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. 10 And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. 11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.

Ex 20:7 thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house ...



Lessons from Cain

Jhn 15:18 If **the world hate you**, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore **the world hateth you**.

1Jn 3:1 therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Jhn 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God **abideth** on him.



1 John 3:16-17

King James Version

16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he
laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our
lives for the brethren.

17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his
brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion
from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

When the world and its sin have passed away, what will happen to the
person who does God's will?

5/8/25
Bilson Peters

Loving in Deed and in Truth

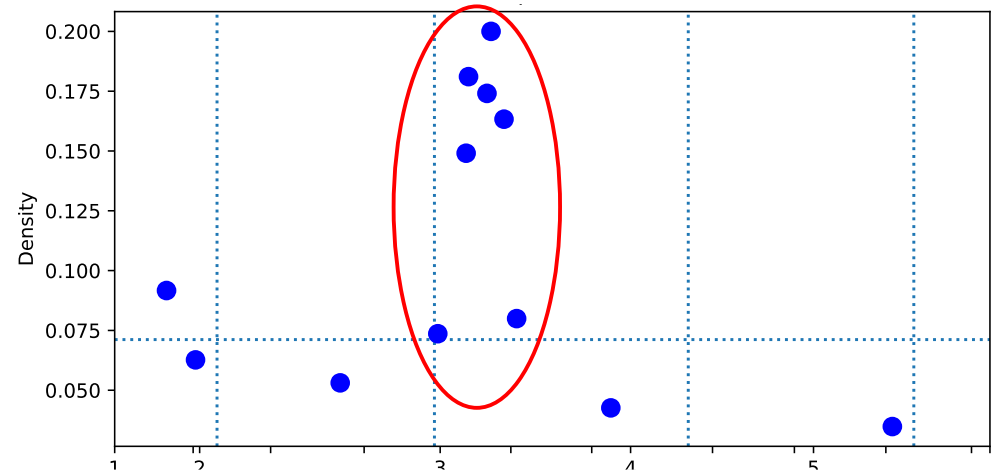
Showing Christ's Love

Jas 2:15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, 16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

Assurances

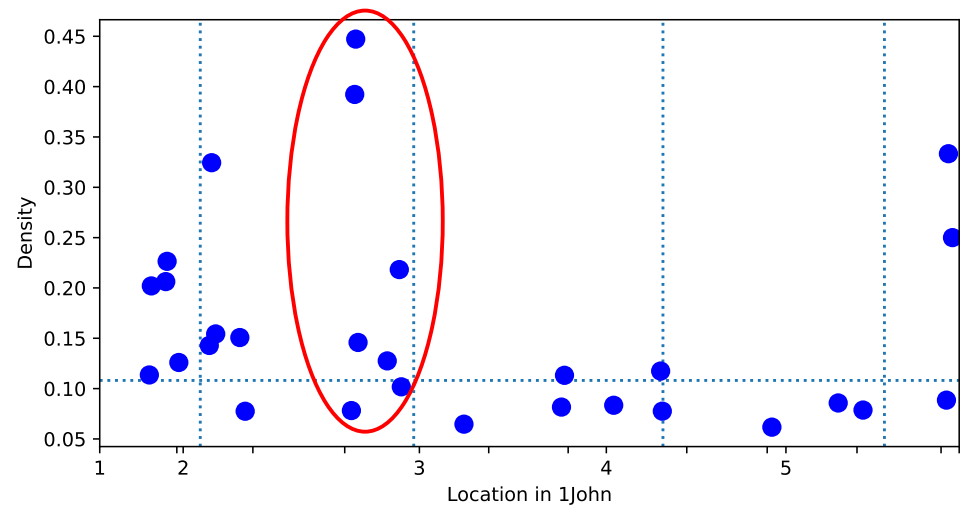
Sign	3:18	3:23
Righteousness	In deed	His commandment
Love	Let us love	Love one another
Belief	In truth	Believe on his Son Jesus Christ

In Deed → Righteousness



To do – second righteousness section

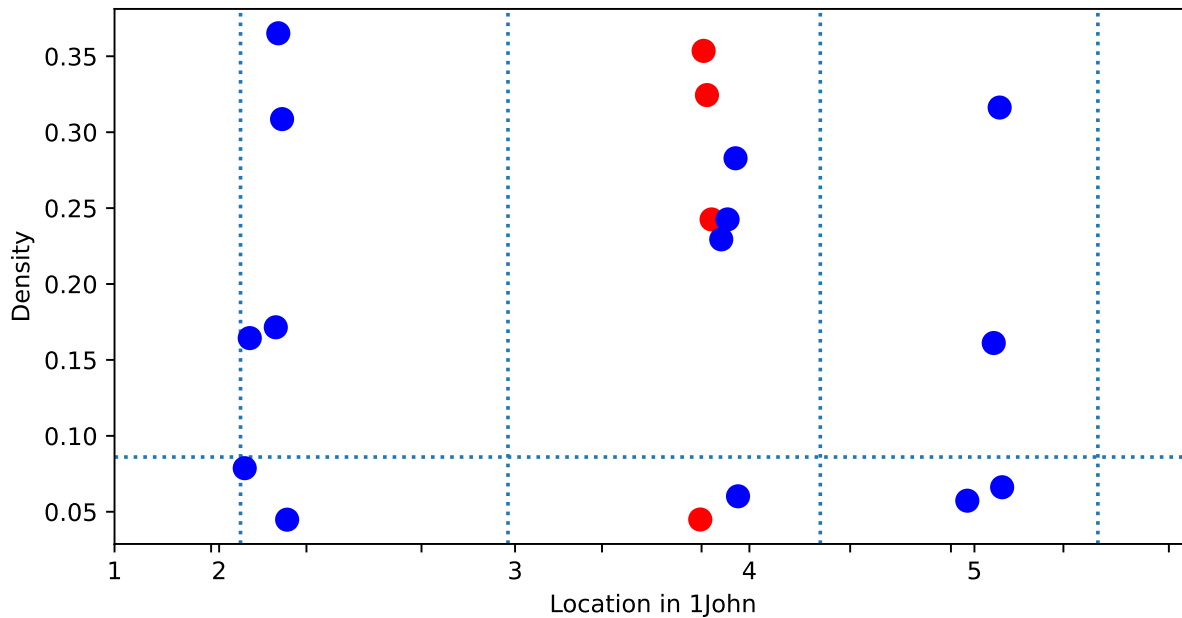
In Truth → Belief



Truth & Deception—first belief section

Assurance: Heart and Commands

Red: heart; blue: command



Heart ~ Conscience

Rom 2:15 Which shew the work of the law **written in their hearts**, their **conscience** also bearing witness, and their **thoughts** the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

1Sa 24:5 And it came to pass afterward, that **David's heart smote him**, because he had cut off Saul's skirt.

2Sa 24:10 And **David's heart smote him** after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.

Php 3:6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, **blameless**.

More References

20 Stilling a Troubled Heart

1Jn 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1Co 4:3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. 4 For **I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.** 5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

21 Confidence (boldness) toward God

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In John's gospel: the Lord's boldness in preaching

In 1John: our boldness before God

- 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have **confidence**, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.
- 3:21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we **confidence** toward God.
- 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have **boldness** in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.
- 5:14 And this is the **confidence** that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: