

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

- 4:7-19, Love
- 4:20-5:4, Righteousness
- 5:5-12, Belief

5:13-22, Closing Summary and Exhortation

The Second Panel of Signs

Things to Look For

- 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?
- Why are people in the OT not bold toward God?
- What changed to let people be bold before God?
- How does God's solution to a guilty conscience differ from man's?

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.

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

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

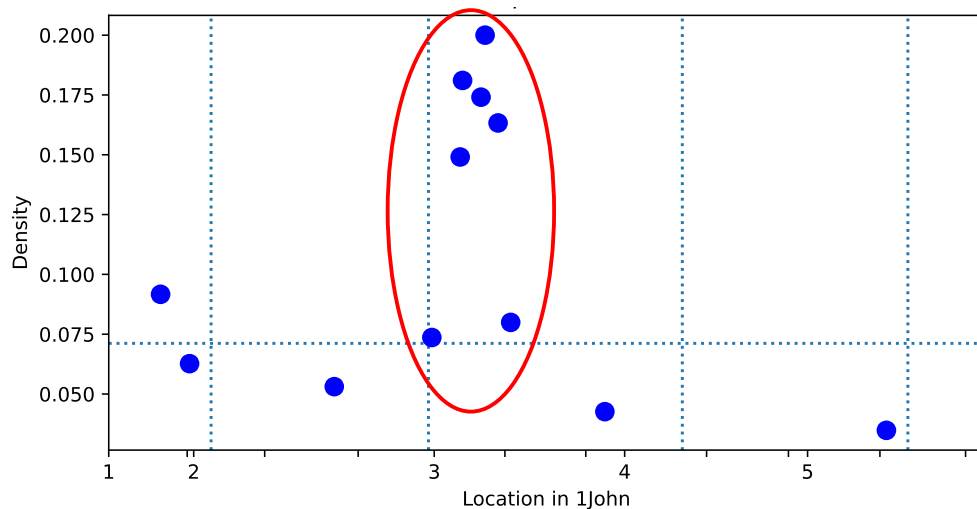
16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because **he laid down his life for us**: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. ...

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.

Loving in Deed and in Truth

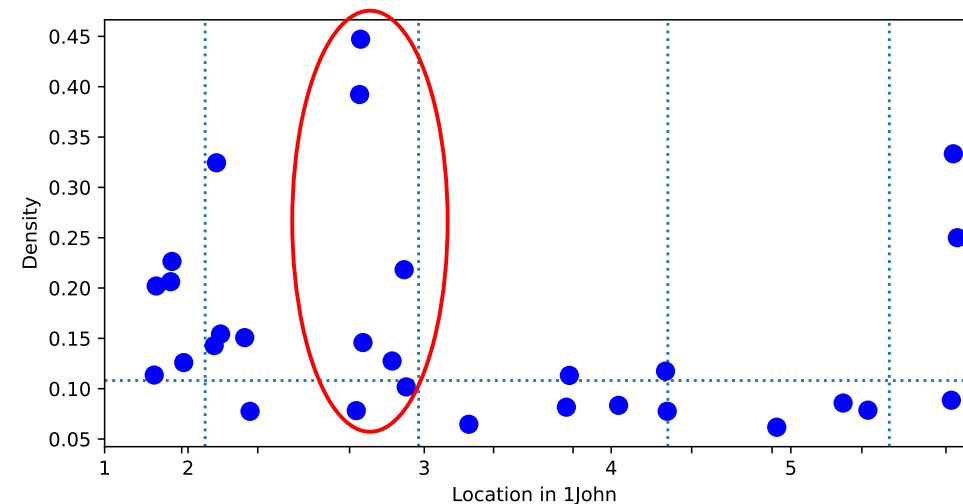
Sign	3:18	3:23
Righteousness	In deed	His commandment
Love	Let us love	Love one another
Belief	In truth	Believe on his Son Jesus Christ

In Deed → Righteousness



To do – second righteousness section

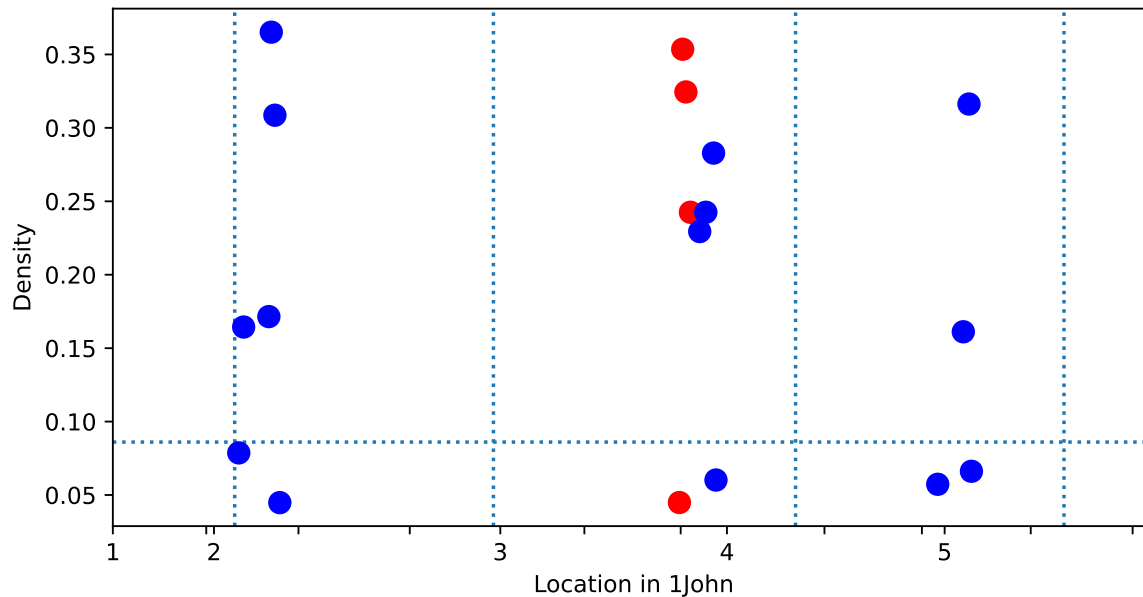
In Truth → Belief



Truth & Deception—first belief section

Assurance: Heart and Commands

Red: heart; blue: commandment



Note progression from heart (3:19-21) to commandment (3:22-24)

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

παρρησία *parrēsia* G3954

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:

Boldness Then and Now

Examples of No Boldness:

Gen 3:8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife **hid themselves** from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

Exo 20:19 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but **let not God speak with us**, lest we die.

Isa 6:5 Then said I, **Woe is me!** for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

Luk 5:8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, **Depart from me;** for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

What changed?

1 Jhn 1:7 the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin

1 Jhn 1:9 he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

1 Jhn 2:1 we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the Righteous, 2 and he is the propitiation for our sins.

Jhn 14:1 **Let not your heart be troubled:** ye believe in God, **believe also in me.**

Jhn 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. **Let not your heart be troubled,** neither let it be afraid.

Luke 5:8
King James Version
8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees,
saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

Why did Simon Peter ask Jesus to depart?



Our Confidence Before God

21 Confidence toward God

Heb 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come **boldly** [with boldness μετὰ παρρησίας] unto the throne of grace, that we may **obtain** mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

1Jn 5:14 And this is the **confidence παρρησία** that we have in him, that, if we **ask any thing** according to his will, he heareth us:

24 by the Spirit

1John 4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, **because he hath given us of his Spirit.**

Man's Effort:

Sin → Guilt → **Obedience** → Insecurity

God's Way:

Sin → Guilt → Confession → Boldness → Prayer → **Obedience**