

Off the Shelf

Sunday School Lesson

1 John

Introduction

1. This epistle was written by the apostle John probably between 80-95AD. The style of writing is consistent with the Gospel of John and there are numerous early church leaders such as Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria and Tertulian who attest that John wrote this letter.
2. This epistle was written during the time that a false teaching called Gnosticism was growing. Gnostics claimed to be Christians who had superior knowledge to the teachings of the apostles. They believed that matter was evil and that therefore Jesus could not be God. John wrote this letter to warn Christians and to help them discern the characteristics of true children of God.

Jesus is God Incarnate (1:1-4)

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.

1. John begins by stating that Jesus always existed and so he is God. He then says that there was a group of disciples (himself included) who saw Jesus in the flesh and touched him. This refutes the false Gnostic teachings that Jesus did not have a human body.
2. Jesus is the only way to eternal life. (Jn 14:6) John lived with Jesus during the last three years of his life. John witnessed the miracles, teachings, death and resurrection of Jesus. These things convinced him that Jesus is God with the Father.
3. Because John and others lived with Jesus and became his disciples, they have the authority to proclaim to others what they have seen and heard. In this way, John is stating his credentials are superior to those of false teachers.
4. John refers to Jesus as the Christ or the Anointed One (Messiah) which also testifies to the divinity and humanity of Jesus.
5. Inner joy comes through having a relationship with God through faith in Jesus. *Can you describe the fellowship with God and other Christians that exists among born again Christian believers? How does this fellowship produce joy?*

Maintaining Fellowship with God (1:5-10)

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

1. Light is used by John to describe the holiness of God. God is light means that he is absolutely holy and there is nothing evil that can have a relationship with him. Christians are commanded to be holy as God is holy. (1 Cor 1:2; Eph 1:4; 1 Pet 1:15) Holiness is something that we cannot achieve in this life but we are called to strive for it as children strive to imitate their parents. *What are some ways that we can become more like Christ and be more holy?*
2. *What does it mean to live by the truth? What is the fellowship with God that John mentions? Why is it impossible to be in fellowship with God and not live according to his commands?*
3. Obedience to God means living in the light of his truth revealed through the Bible. (Ps 119:105; 119:133)
4. Those who persist in doing evil either are not saved or they are grieving the Holy Spirit who works to change our thinking and habits to bring them into obedience to God. Those who claim to be without sin are liars or they do not understand the depths of our sinful nature. There are many people who never repent and rely on Jesus because they think that they are good people who have not done anything serious enough to deserve going to hell. John says that these people deceive themselves and are lost.
5. Born again believers have realized and confessed the depths of their sinfulness. This confession and reliance upon Jesus brings cleansing and forgiveness of sins. (Eph 2:8-9; Rom 6:23) This pattern of realizing, confessing and turning away from sins is required for Christians in order to become more like Jesus.
6. *Why is it important for Christians to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus?*

Off the Shelf

Sunday School Lesson

1 John 2

Fellowship with Jesus and Christians (2:1-11)

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous

One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for our but also for the sins of the whole world. We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This (is) how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

1. Christians are to follow the example of Jesus and live without sinning. This is a high standard but it is what a pure and holy God requires. A holy God cannot say that it is OK to sin a little. At the same time, God knows that we will sin and so he comforts us with the fact that Jesus is ever present to forgive us. Jesus speaks to the Father on our behalf saying that he has paid for our sins with his blood.
2. Note that John says that Christians still have a Father when they sin. The salvation of born-again Christians is secure but our fellowship is affected by our sins. This is like a child who disobeys his parents. The child is not disowned but the relationship is strained. (Jn 10:27-28; Eph 4:30)
3. Seeking to know God's commands in the Bible and obeying them are signs that a person is born again. The indwelling Holy Spirit creates a longing to know God better and to please him. Also, the Holy Spirit changes our thinking so that we desire what God wants. (Ps 42:1-5; Rom 12:1-2)
4. God's love will be complete or perfected in us when we are in total unity and obedience to his will. This will not happen during this life but in the life to come.
5. In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to love their neighbors. In the New Testament, John is saying that Christians will love each other because of the presence and work of the Holy Spirit within them. Birds of a feather flock together. A person who claims to be a Christian and has no love or desire to be with other Christians is lost and is deceived. John says such a person is walking in the darkness and is blind. (Lev 19:18; 2 Cor 3:13-18)
6. *What do you think John would say about those who drop out of Church or who only attend Sunday worship services via television or the internet?*

Guidance for Christians (2:12-17)

I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. I write to you fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one. Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the

Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of the sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

1. John addresses Christians as children who have been forgiven because of the life and death of Jesus. Those who put their faith in Jesus are adopted children of God. No matter our age or maturity as Christians in this life, we are all children when it comes to becoming and understanding what we will be in heaven. (Jn 1:12-13; 1 Jn 3:2)
2. Jesus is eternal God and so he was present when the universe was created. (Col 1:15-17)
3. The word of God (Jesus) lives in believers because the Holy Spirit dwells within believers. God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are one God. Christians are being changed to become obedient to God and his commands in the Bible because of the transformation of their minds, through the power of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor 6:19-20; 2 Cor 3:17-18)

How has your life changed since you became a Christian?

4. Christians overcome the influence of evil as God changes them. The temptations of the world gradually lose their appeal as we grow in love and obedience to Jesus. If a person continues to love the desires of the flesh, this is a sign that he is not born again. People who are consumed with lusts for money, sex and power are serving the evil system of this world and not God.

What are the things that are most important to you? Are they the things of God or do they feed your pride? Do they make you more self-centered or God centered?

Warning About False Teachers (2:18-27)

Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us, but their going showed that none of them belonged to us. But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist—he denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. And this is what he promised us—even eternal life. I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.

1. Those who have changed the gospel of Jesus are called antichrists. Some

examples of these false teachings are: denying the divinity of Jesus, his atoning death and resurrection, salvation by works and universal salvation. *Can you name some religions today that teach these false ideas?*

2. Many of these false teachers started as members of Christian religions. However, they left and formed their own religions. This is a sign to Christians that they never were born again. (Lk 12:8-9; 2 Jn 1:7-9)
3. Knowledge of the gospel of Jesus and the teachings of the Bible are essential to help Christians discern false teachers. Also, the Holy Spirit will speak to us and we will sense that something is not right when we hear false teachers. This is the anointing of the Holy One. (Jn 16:7-13)
4. There are some differences in beliefs among Christian denominations that separate them. These teachings do not alter the gospel of Jesus but reflect various interpretations of the Bible. *Can you name some of these differences?*
5. The Nicene Creed reflects the essentials of the gospel. This statement was developed by the early church to define core beliefs that cannot be changed.

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Reformed Theological Seminary 2021

<https://rts.edu/historical-creeds-of-faith/the-nicene-creed/>

Off the Shelf

Sunday School Lesson

1 John 3

The Desire for Purity (2:28-3:3)

And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him. How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him

as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

3. Christians are to persevere in the pursuit of loving, serving and hoping in God. We are to be faithful servants who seek and obey God's will for us. In this way, we will not be ashamed if the Lord returns at any moment of our lives. (2 Th 3:4-5; 1 Pet 4:19)
Is there anything in your life that you would be ashamed about if Jesus returned at any moment?
4. John says that since Jesus is good, those who are his children will also do good. The Holy Spirit dwells inside each born again Christian. The Holy Spirit changes our thinking and directs our desires so that we become more like Jesus. This is a sign of true faith. (Gal 5:22-23; Php 2:12-16)
5. Christians have a promise from God that one day we will be with Jesus. We will be glorified and perfected in holiness. We will be like Jesus who is the first of a holy race of priests and kings who will reign throughout the universe and for eternity. (Jn 17:22-23; 1 Pet 2:9-10)
6. Given these promises, John says that everyone who has true faith (hope) desires to follow Jesus and seeks to be pure. *What are some things that you can do to seek to be more like Jesus?*

The Children of God and the Children of Satan (3:4-15)

Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother. This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.

1. Sin is anything that is against the will of God. God's will is expressed through his commandments but lawlessness goes much further. Sins of omission, selfishness, pride, greed and other evil motives are sinful even before any actions are taken. *What is sinful about building the tower of Babel or offering sacrifices your own way? (Gen 4:3-7; 11:1-9) Can you think of other examples?*
2. Jesus not only takes away the sins of Christians but he also takes away sinful desires through the work of the indwelling Holy Spirit. (1 Cor 6:19; 12:1-2)

3. Christians do sin but they are convicted and motivated to overcome sinful ways. They are like swimmers against the current of the sinful human nature. They may be push around but they persist and eventually will reach the goal of holiness. On the other hand, those who claim to be Christians but go with the flow of their sinful nature, deceive themselves and the truth is not in them. (Rom 7:14-25)
4. The love of God motivates Christians to love others. This love causes us to care for others and focus on others. In contrast, the devil is self-focused and desires to destroy others for his pleasure. This causes conflict between the children of the devil and Christians. (Jn 15:18-21) *What are some examples of how the world persecutes Christians?*

Christian Conduct (3:16-24)

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and see his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

1. Jesus lived for the good of others. He performed healing miracles and ultimately gave his life so that those who believe in him will be perfected in holiness. This is love. To sacrifice for the benefit of others because you care deeply for them. Christians are to follow the example of Jesus and live for the benefit of others. This is what it means to be crucified with Christ yet live. (Gal 2:20) *How has God changed your life to make you more loving towards others and take actions to help them?*
2. John says that helping others must include actions and not just words. When we are praying for others, we must ask God what we can do. Praying to relief ourselves of guilt or to think we have done our duty is not enough.
3. It is our actions that show the reality of our faith. When we live in obedience to God's commands, we feel the joy of the Lord and we sense his pleasure with us. Love burns within and confirms the presence of the Holy Spirit. (Mt 7:20-23; Jas 2:18)
4. The Holy Spirit is our counselor who guides us and transforms us to be like Jesus. (Jn 14:26) The Holy Spirit works within believers producing thanksgiving to the Father for his mercy and love for Jesus who sacrificed for us. The Holy Spirit points us towards the Father and Son. *How is this consistent with the love God wants us to have for others?*

Off the Shelf

Sunday School Lesson

1 John 4

Recognizing False Teachers (4:1-6)

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. You dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

1. John warns believers about false teachers who claim to be Christians. Anyone who claims that Jesus is not both divine and human is a false teacher. Those who deny that salvation is by faith in Jesus are false teachers. Those who claim to have a special revelation from God that enables them to write books and proclaim teachings that supersede the Bible are false teachers. *What are some examples of these false teachers and religions?*
2. The Holy Spirit within born again Christians enables them to discern false teachers. The Holy Spirit identifies sin and guides Christians into holiness. Christians who obey the Holy Spirit will face opposition, but they will persevere in doing God's will. (Jn 16:13; 2 Ti 2:3-13; 3:12-17)
3. Evil forces that bring trials and the temptations of the world may influence Christians but they are not as strong as the Holy Spirit who dwells within. Therefore, Christians will progress in holiness despite the opposition of evil. Progress may be slow but it is directed and perfected by the Holy Spirit and so it is guaranteed. God's children will be perfected in holiness. (Rom 6:26-39; Phil 1:6; Heb 10:10-14)

The Importance of Love (4:7-21)

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us his Spirit. And we

have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

1. God is love and so he is the source of love. Love is focused on others and works for their good. *How does the love of God compare to the love of the world?* (1 Cor 13:1-8; Gal 5: 19-23)
2. God shows that he loves Christians intensely because he sent his beloved Son Jesus to become like us and to die for us so that we might become like him. (Jn 3:16-18)
3. The Holy Spirit within born again Christians draws them together with love for each other. This is another evidence of genuine salvation. *How can we not love the same God who dwells within us and others? How does this love differ from other forms of love?*
4. The changes that the Holy Spirit makes within believers have common elements that encourage us and reinforces that we are on the path of obedience and becoming more like Jesus. *What are some of these common changes among believers?*
5. *How does the presence of the Holy Spirit lead to confidence on the day of judgment?* (Rom 8:1-4; Heb 4:14-16)
6. Christians are commanded to love their brothers. The Holy Spirit works within born again believers to grow us in love for God and others. (Eph 3:16-19; 4:15-16) *How has God enabled you to love others?*

Off the Shelf

Sunday School Lesson

1 John 5

Blessed Assurances (5:1-15)

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only,

but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given about his Son. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

1. Faith in Jesus Christ is required to be a genuine Christian (born again spiritually). This faith is confirmed by the indwelling Holy Spirit. This faith is a gift from God and cannot be earned. (Jn 3: 3; 1 Cor 6:19; Eph 2:8-9)
2. Born again Christians love God and their fellow believers. The Holy Spirit changes our thoughts and desires so that we can obey God's commands. This is why God's commands are not burdensome. It is by God's transforming grace that we can keep his commands and do the good works that he has prepared for us. (Rom 12:1-2; Eph 2:10)
3. The only way to overcome the world (sin and death) is by faith in Jesus. (Jn 14:6)
4. John refutes heretics such as the Gnostics by stating that Jesus was born in the flesh and that he died an atoning death on the cross for sin. Jesus came by water in a natural birth and died a violent death on the cross.
5. The miraculous signs that happened when Jesus was baptized and when he died also testify to the fact that he is God. The Holy Spirit within believers also reveals these truths and confirms them to those who have faith in Jesus. (Mt 3:16-17; Lk 23:44-47; Rom 8:16)
6. Christians can approach God confidently in prayer and in heaven because we are his adopted children through the blood of Jesus. God listens to his children and answers prayers that align with his will. Proper prayers are not primarily about asking for what we want but seeking God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. (Rom 8:12-16; Heb 4:14-16; Lk 11:1-4)

Warnings (5:16-21)

If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. I refer to those who sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that he should pray about that. All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death. We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. Dear

children, keep yourselves from idols.

1. There are various ideas about what sin John says is unpardonable or leads to death. I believe the two best ideas are blasphemy against the Holy Spirit or false teachers who decide to leave the church and start their own.
 - A. Jesus said that those who say that the miracles he performed were done by the devil have committed blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. (Mk 3: 22-29)
Those who are so blind and hardened against God that they don't recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit will not be saved. Repentance leading to salvation begins with recognizing that there is a holy God and that we are sinful. If you can't see your lost condition in the light of the Holy Spirit, you can't begin to be saved.
 - B. Those who have learned the truths of the gospel but are not saved have deceived themselves. They may have made a profession of faith and experienced Christian fellowship, but they turned to a different gospel. (Heb 6:4-6; 2 Tim 3:12-17)
2. God will prevail against sinful habits in a person who is born again. John acknowledges that Christians will continue to sin but the Holy Spirit will change their thinking and desires to conform to his will. (Php 1:3-6; 1 Jn 4:4)
The evil forces of the world, the flesh and the devil are like a strong current. However, the Holy Spirit is like a powerful wind that reverses the current and enables the Christian to swim towards holiness.
3. Christians are to pray for other Christians asking God to help them overcome sinful habits. *What are some ways that God has answered these prayers? Are there some prayer requests for yourself or others that need to be shared?*
4. John says that Christians know that they are born again children of God. *How do you know this?* (Rom 8:12-16)
5. John says that understanding about Jesus and the gospel is given to enable salvation for those he chooses. Those who are saved are part of the body of Jesus who is the source of eternal life. (Jn 14:6; 15:5; Eph 2:1-10; 1 Cor 12:27)
6. John concludes by warning Christians to stay away from idols. Idols can be anything that takes the place of God. Idols consume our thoughts, energy and affection. They can be things, activities, false teachings and people. *What are some examples of popular idols?*