

15 NOVEMBER 2026 AM
1 John 5:18-21
TRIBE·23
= a close-knit community with shared identity

And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

1 John 5:20

INTRODUCTION
A DISCERNED THEOLOGY **5:18-21**

- this sermon series is now ending...23 messages

  John was an old man who wanted to get to the heart of matters

  for John, there was no confusion about who Christ is or what our relationship with Him should look like

  1 John 1:5
  This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

- in closing his letter, John ends it the same way

THREE ABSOLUTE TRUTHS EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD KNOW

each one identified by **WE KNOW**...

verse 18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not...

verse 19 ...we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness

verse 20 ...we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding,

- tragically, we live in an age where people put all their faith and trust in technology

  our entire lives are on a phone

  we believe what we read on the internet

  The Genius Bar @ The Apple Store

1. We Know SECURITY verse 18

We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

HABITUAL SIN?

We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself,

earlier in his letter, John said this same thing

> **3:9** Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

once again, the key is in the *verb tense*: it is in the *present continuous* tense

> it indicates a habitual lifestyle of sin

John is not saying Christians never sin; but rather, they do not live in a *lifestyle* of sin

> compare **1 John 5:16** sin unto death
>
> in **Romans 7:14-24**, Paul illustrates the struggle of the believer and the war in the flesh we all face

...but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself

this phrase is tricky...it is worded in an odd way

NOTE: various commentaries argue over translation and word choices...Calvinists use this as a proof text in their belief of the *perseverance of the saints*

the simple understanding is all we need

born and *begotten* are the same Greek word

to paraphrase John, he is challenging every believer to keep himself in right fellowship with Christ and away from the sins of the world

5:21 keep yourselves from idols (isolate)

we can't keep ourselves saved...only Jesus and the Father can do that

John 10:28-29

but we can do our best to keep control of our lives and have a clear relationship with the Lord through the power of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 9:27
But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

HINDERED SATAN!

...and that wicked one toucheth him not.

toucheth = to lay hold of
John 20:17 touch me not

John reminds us here that satan can never take away our salvation...he might take away our joy, but we can't lose our salvation, and we can't be possessed by him

Romans 8:38-39

2. We Know SEPARATION verse 19

And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

WE ARE SAVED!

And we know that we are of God...

the word **OF** indicates a common or shared nature

John 15:19

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.

as believers, we share the nature and character of God...we are **NOT** God, but we should look and live like Him

2 Peter 1:3-4

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

and as Jesus stated, the world hates us because we do not function as they do

Romans 8:31-32

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

ARE WE SOUND?

...and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

the weakest Christian is stronger than the world...but that should not be a matter of pride

Romans 8:37
Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

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.

let us not forget the **ENTIRE** world is filled with wickedness

lieth = to lie outstretched

Genesis 6:5
And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

3. We Know SUBSTANCE verse 20

And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

THE INCARNATION OF CHRIST

And we know that the Son of God is come...

Old Testament prophecies foretold it

New Testament saints lived to see it

false religions struggle to deny it

but **WE** know it is true

1 John 4:14 the Father sent the Son

1 Timothy 3:16 God was manifest...

THE ILLUMINATION OF CHRISTIANS

and hath given us an understanding...

understanding = to see through with the mind; to discern

1 Kings 3:9 **Solomon**
Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

God makes Himself known to us and shows to our senses that He is logical

Romans 1:19
Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

Luke 24:45
Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures…

of course, there are those who **CHOOSE** not to believe and to ignore the obvious

Romans 1:21
Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

2 Peter 3:5
For this they willingly are ignorant of...

THE INTRODUCTION OF GOD

...that we may know him that is true,

we **KNOW** God by experience

it's not just knowledge about God

He changed our lives	2 Cor 5:17
He answers our prayers	Matthew 7:7
He directs our steps	Psalm 37:23

1 John 2:13-14 fathers...have known

as he draws near to his conclusion, John wants us to *keep on* knowing God...drawing closer to Him and walking in right fellowship with Him

1 John 1:7
But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,
we have fellowship one with another,

OUR INSTALLATION WITH CHRIST

...and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ.

John didn't say we were **WITH** Christ

John had been there…

he said we are **IN** Christ

Romans 8:1
There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus…

Romans 8:39
[nothing] hall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.