



# I John 4:17—5:5

## Scripture Memory

### I John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

God is “just.” ...[W]hen God forgives the sin of the penitent believer He acts in full accord with His righteous and holy nature. We might have expected John to say that God is “merciful” in forgiving our sins; although true, that would have been less assuring to our troubled hearts...[T]he declaration that He is righteous reminds us that in forgiving our sins God acts in full moral consistency with His character in view of the cross.

D. Edmond Hiebert, *The Epistles of John* (Greenville, Bob Jones University Press, 1991), p. 66.

## Sunday School Lesson Notes

### Key Thoughts

The key word in this section is *perfect*. God wants to perfect in us His love for us and our love for Him. The word *perfect* carries the idea of maturity and completeness. A believer is not only to grow in grace and knowledge (2 Peter 3:18), but he is also to grow in his love for the Father...[T]he Christian life is to be a daily experience of growing in the love of God. It involves a Christian’s coming to know his heavenly Father in a much deeper way as he grows in love.

Warren Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary: New Testament, Volume II*, (David C. Cook), p. 520-521.

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have love you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one another.

John 13:34-36

## Questions to Consider

*As you answer the questions and prepare for Sunday school, carefully read I John 4:17-5:5.*

1. According to I John 4:17...
  - What is the result when believers grow in God's love ("our love made perfect")?
  - What is the reason we as believers are enjoying "boldness" (confidence) in the reality of the coming "day of judgment?"
2. I John 4:18: What is the "fear" that "perfect love casteth out?" (Hint: consider the previous verse)
3. According to I John 4:20, what disproves a person's claim to "love God?"
4. I John 5:1 is the combination of two great ingredients of Christianity, faith and love.
  - First, John defines saving faith (1a). What is necessary for a person to experience the new birth ("born of God")?
  - Secondly, John describes the product of saving faith (1b). According to this verse, how does a believer (one who has experienced by faith the new birth) respond to the One who "begat" him, and how will he interact with other born again believers?

*Consider: The born-again believer, conscious that he has received new life from God, loves the one who gave him birth and also feels inspired to love the one in whom he sees that new life in operation.*

D. Edmond Hiebert, p. 225.

5. According to I John 5:2-3, how will believers evidence their salvation and express their true love for God?
6. According to I John 5:4-5, what is the prerequisite for experiencing victory in this evil world ("overcoming the world")?

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## Truth to Ponder

*Regarding I John 5:2-3: Love-prompted obedience finds that God's commandments are not a crushing burden which exhausts one's strength and destroys the sense of freedom in Christ. The believer finds that the new life in Christ implants in him a desire to do the will of God and finds that love makes obedience to His commands rewarding, for he realizes that God has given His laws for his own protection and true well-being.*

D. Edmond Hiebert, p. 228.