

***International Bible Lessons Commentary***  
***1 John 4:13-5:5***

**New American Standard Bible**

***International Bible Lessons***  
**Sunday, April 19, 2015**

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The **International Bible Lesson** (*Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series*) for **Sunday, April 19, 2015**, is from **1 John 4:13-5:5**. **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** follow the verse-by-verse *International Bible Lesson Commentary*. **Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further** discusses *Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further* to help with class preparation and in conducting class discussion: these hints are available on the [International Bible Lessons Commentary](#) website along with the *International Bible Lesson* that you may want to read to your class as part of your Bible study. A podcast for this commentary is also available at the [International Bible Lesson Forum](#).

***International Bible Lesson Commentary***

**1 John 4:13-5:5**

**(1 John 4:13) By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.**

If someone wanted to know whether they were Christians or not, John's answer in this verse could help them. First, Christians abide in or remain in Christ and Christ abides in or remains in them. Second, the Holy Spirit within them can give them the assurance that Christ abides in them and they are abiding in Christ. Third, the Holy Spirit will give that assurance through the Holy Scriptures (see the verses below and 1 John 3:24; 2 John 1:9 and John 15:5-10).

**(1 John 4:14) We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.**

John and the other apostles saw and touched Jesus. They heard what He taught and saw what He did. They saw Him after He rose from the dead; they received the Holy Spirit; and they accepted His Great Commission (1 John 1:1-4; Matthew 28:18-20). They testified with evidence acceptable in a court of law that God the Father truly exists: the Father sent His Son into the world; His Son came as the Savior of the world (John 3:16).

**(1 John 4:15) Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.**

John gave additional evidence that someone can use to know if they are Christian: do they confess that “Jesus is the Son of God.” John gave the reason God abides in someone. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God – not “a” son of God or one of many important people, but Jesus is “THE” Son of God (see John 3:16). God abides in those who confess Jesus is the Christ, and when they also abide in God, they “bear much fruit” (John 15:5). Bearing much good fruit flows from a right relationship between God and the believer: another evidence for assurance that a person is a Christian.

**(1 John 4:16) We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.**

Christians believe Jesus is the Son of God, and they know and believe that God loves them. John restated such truths as we find in John 3:16 – because God loved the world so much, “God gave” His only Son. The Father did not simply “send” Jesus into the world to teach us truths about how to live for God and serve others. Jesus did that, but we know and believe that God loves us because God “gave” His only Son to die as the “atoning sacrifice for our sins” (see 1 John 2:2; 1 John 4:10). God’s nature is love. God’s character and choice is love and to love. Love motivates God to do all God wisely can to promote the happiness and well-being of

every creature. Those who abide in love abide in the circle of love that God has created with His commandments through the Scriptures and the perfect example of His Son, Jesus Christ. God empowers and enables true believers in Jesus Christ to live within His circle of love as God lives within them and through them. Christians remain (abide) in love in all they do. Love motivates them and they remain (abide) in God: they express their love by obeying His commandments.

**(1 John 4:17) By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.**

God perfects His love within and among the true followers of Jesus; through those who truly believe Jesus is the Son of God and who relate to Jesus as the Scriptures have revealed Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. A Day of Judgment is coming, and those who are born-again are transformed by the presence and love of God in Christ within them; so they can be bold and unafraid of punishment on that day.

**(1 John 4:18) There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.**

When God in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit come to live within us, they fill our hearts with their love, and we love others and bear much fruit as their love overflows out of our hearts. Their love in us and our loving response to their love as described in the Bible casts out all fear of punishment from God on the Day of Judgment. If we fear punishment from God we need to move closer to God in Christ and pray for the Holy Spirit to help us love God and others according to biblical teachings. We need to remind ourselves of all God the Father, Jesus Christ (the Son of God and Savior), and the Holy Spirit have done for us and will do for us according to the Scriptures.

**(1 John 4:19) We love, because He first loved us.**

We love and love God and others according to the commands, example, and teachings of Jesus only because God first loved us, sent His Son to die for us, and then sent His Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, to live in us, guide us, empower us, and help us understand and wisely apply the Bible's teachings.

**(1 John 4:20) If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.**

John had written, "No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in

us” (1 John 4:12). Now, John writes and basically asks, “How can you love God whom you have not seen and not love a brother or sister in Christ that you have seen?” If you hate others, you cannot love God. Those who hate do not know the true God.

**(1 John 4:21) And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.**

The Bible, Jesus, and the Apostles have given us commands in the New Testament that God expects us to obey in daily life. We must love God, we must love our brothers and sisters in Christ, we must love our enemies (Matthew 5:44) and our neighbors (Matthew 22:37-40). The indwelling Holy Spirit can help true Christians love God and others and obey God in every situation they face every day. The Holy Spirit can help the true Christian love wisely so others are benefitted as well as themselves. The Holy Spirit can help believers lead others to repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ through the love they have for them.

**(1 John 5:1) Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.**

John gives believers another test by which they can know if they are true Christians: “do we believe that Jesus is the

Christ” – the Messiah that God promised to send, and do we believe Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, as the Bible represents Him? If we repent of our sins and trust in Jesus Christ as the Holy Scriptures teach, then we are born-again. Those who are born-again believe in Jesus Christ according to the Scriptures; their new birth leads them to love and obey Jesus Christ according to the Scriptures. If someone is truly born-again, they will truly love God, they will love His Son, Jesus Christ, and they will love other children of God as their brothers and sisters in Christ.

**(1 John 5:2) By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.**

If we love God the Father and God the Son, we will love the children of God – those who are born-again into the family of God by grace through repentance for sin and faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The Bible commands and requires the true children of God to love God and obey God’s commandments. If we love God and obey God’s commandments, we will also love God’s children. John says we can know whether or not we are loving God and God’s children as born-again believers.

**(1 John 5:3) For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.**

Love for God and obedience to God go together. If we are obeying God because we love God then we have no fear of punishment by God – this is gospel living – this is good news. If we are trying to obey God because we are afraid of punishment by God – this is living under the law of God and not the love of God. It is not burdensome to obey God when we love God and love to obey God because we truly love God and want to bring God joy and glory.

**(1 John 5:4) For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.**

When we are born of God, God the Father, Son, and Spirit live and love within us; therefore, we can keep on loving and obeying God when the world tempts us or persecutes us. Through the abiding and indwelling Spirit of Truth we can have a strong faith in God and do the most loving and wisest things according to the Truth of God, which conquers the world.

**(1 John 5:5) Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?**

The entire focus of the Bible is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. God the Father commands everyone to believe that Jesus is the Son of God. Believing in Jesus as the Son of God enables us to love God and others as the Bible reveals,

and by doing so we conquer the world. If we find ourselves being defeated by the world or living a defeated life before the world because of the world and the world's temptations to disobey God and Jesus, then we need to examine our beliefs and see if we truly love Jesus and believe in Jesus as revealed in the Bible.

### **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further**

1. Give one way that we can know we abide in Christ from 1 John 4:13.
2. Describe who Jesus is from your reading of 1 John 4:13-5:5.
3. Who does John say God abides in?
4. What commandment did John emphasize in 1 John 4:13-5:5?
5. What is one of the things we can do to demonstrate our love for God?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.

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