

“Know you Abide by Passing the Test”

Summary of 1 John

Know you Abide - John’s letter is the assurance of mutual abiding—God in us and us in God. “Abide” is John’s term for fellowship with God (cf. John 15). If you are not abiding you are not saved. John gives these tests to help the reader discern the characteristics of an authentic relationship with God. The tests overlap in almost every chapter but an emphasis can be found as listed in the sections below. Study through the book paying special attention to his repetition of the terms “know” and “abide.”

The Test of Obedience (1 John 1:1-2:11)

- 1:1-4 - True Christians proclaim Jesus for the joy of salvation.
- 1:5-10 - True Christians confess sin while the deceived deny it.
- 2:1-2 - True Christians avoid sin and appeal to the Advocate.
- 2:3-6 - True Christians keep Christ’s commands.
- 2:7-11 - True Christians love walking in the light.



The Test of Truth (1 John 2:12-27)

- 2:12-14 - True Christians grow and mature in knowing God.
- 2:15-17 - True Christians don't waste love on the world.
- 2:18-27 - True Christians confess Christ and abide in truth.
- 2:28-3:3 - True Christians know they are children of God becoming like Christ.

The Test of Love (1 John 2:28-4:21)

- 3:4-10 - True Christians cannot keep sinning.
- 3:11-18 - True Christians live out love.
- 3:19-24 - True Christians are confident before God by their faith and love.



- 4:1-6 - True Christians discern the faithful from the false.
- 4:7-12 - True Christians love because God loves us.
- 4:13-21 - True Christians abide in the perfect love they've received.

The Test of Belief (1 John 5:1-21)

- 5:1-5 - True Christians are born of God, love God, and obey God.
- 5:6-12 - True Christians receive the testimony of God about Jesus.
- 5:13-17 - True Christians may know they have life and are confident to pray.
- 5:18-21 - True Christians know the true God and live in Him.

