

THE LETTERS OF JOHN

~ In this we know love ~

José Young

Ediciones Crecimiento Cristiano

Young, José

The letters of John : In this we know love / José Young. - 1a ed. - Villa Nueva : Crecimiento Cristiano, 2020.

56 p. ; 21 x 14 cm.

Traducción de: José Young.

ISBN 978-987-1219-45-2

1. Estudios Bíblicos. I. Título.

CDD 226.506

This study is a translation of “Las cartas de Juan: Así conocemos el amor” published by Ediciones Crecimiento Cristiano, Villa Nueva, Argentina, [I.S.B.N. 978-987-1219-44-5]

© Ediciones Crecimiento Cristiano

1ª Edición inglés: Octubre 2020

ISBN: 978-987-1219-44-5

Queda hecho el depósito que marca la Ley 11.723

Prohibida la reproducción total o parcial de este material sin previa autorización escrita de los editores.

EC Ediciones
Crecimiento
Cristiano

“Más que enseñar, te ayudamos a aprender”

 **Córdoba 419 - Villa Nueva - Cba. - Argentina**

 **+54 9 353 491-2450**

 **+54 9 353 481-0724**

 **oficina@edicionescc.com**

 **www.edicionescc.com**

 **Ediciones Crecimiento Cristiano**

 **edicionescc**

Index

FIRST JOHN

Introduction	7
Life and Light.....	9
Old and new	13
The liar.....	19
And we are!	22
The assassins	25
The true key	29
The victory.....	33
Our protection	36

SECOND AND THIRD JOHN

Introduction	43
Second John Letter	45
Third John Letter	51

How to use this study	54
-----------------------------	----

FIRST JOHN

Introduction

The manner in that God showed his love is very clear. It is he who took the initiative and he who sent Jesus to the cross to give us life.

But what proof do we give that we really love God? That is what we will be exploring as we work through the pages of this letter.

When we begin to read 1 John we can see at once the style of his gospel: simple, but profound. With his repetitive style, he says a lot with few words.

It is calculated that the letter was written around the year 95 and that its principal purpose was to combat the Gnostic heresy. Gnosticism promoted a separation of the material from the spiritual. For them, the material was bad and the "spiritual" was good. They even arrived at the extreme position of denying that Christ was really human. To them Christ lived in the body of the human Jesus like a shell, a spiritual being hidden in a human body.

The Gnostic heresy had both doctrinal and practical consequences and John spends a good part of his letter combating them.

During the study I may make reference to three versions of the Bible:

RSV - Revised Standard Version

NIV - New International Version

ESV - English Standard Version

1

Life and Light

1 John 1:1-10

Without any introduction John goes directly to his topic. It is a notable contrast to the custom of society and Paul's practice.

1- When John says: "That which was from the beginning...", what does he mean?

John and the other disciples had a privileged relationship with the Lord. Can you imagine what it would be like to hear him personally and to even touch him?

2- What do 1 Peter 1:8 and 2 Corinthians 5:16 say about verse 1?

Both in his gospel and in this letter, John speaks of the "word" of life.

3- What does the use of "word" to refer to the Lord tell us about him?

John began his gospel very similarly to how he starts this letter.

4- What do we learn about the "word" in John 1:1-14?

The word became flesh and his disciples heard him. That they heard him was evidence. Seeing him was even stronger evidence. But the fact that they touched him was the secure proof that the word became flesh and lived among us.

John writes as a witness, and makes his announcement with authority. He wrote so that those who read it could have fellowship with him and the other disciples. It is important to note that as John states, the purpose of his message was to create a relationship, to form a community. It is true that God offers life to each of us, but his purpose is the formation of a new creation, his church.

John's message is simple: "God is light".

5- Is it the same to say "God is light" as it is to say "God is like a light"? Why?

Verses 5-9 are related to one of the serious errors of Gnosticism. Since they separate body and spirit, they postulate that what a person does in the body cannot contaminate the spirit. With this distinction a person may be very "spiritual" but do whatever he or she wants.

John says that what determines if we are really in fellowship with God or not, is whether we are living in the light or in the darkness.

6- What is "to live in the light"?

Note that the two conditions we must meet to have our sins forgiven are "to live in the light" and "to confess our sins" (verse 9).

7- What does it mean to "confess our sins"? Does it mean we should make a list of all the wrong things we do during the day and read it before God? Or is it something different?

I am sure that none of us would pretend that we never have sinned.

8- What is the difference between "being sinful" and "committing sins"?

John says that it is a mistake to "say we have no sin" (verse 8), but we have a problem with Paul in Romans 6:2 when he says we have "died to sin".

9- How do we understand verse 8 in the light of Romans 6:2?

What should encourage us from verse 9 is that God not only forgives but also cleanses. He forgives us, but also works in our lives to eliminate the causes.

John affirms that if we confess our sins God is faithful and just to forgive our sins. He is faithful because he has promised it. He is just because Jesus Christ paid the account of even the most miserable sinner.