



PUT UP OR SHUT UP

Studies in 1, 2, 3 John & Jude

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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The Nitty Gritty

Introduction to 1 John 4:7-5:21

When we get down to the nitty gritty we are getting down to what really matters, where real life happens. The study this week in 1 John deals with three areas that get down to the nitty gritty. The first of these is love, a topic which 1 John addresses often. This makes sense because love is what the Christian lifestyle is all about. As it says in this section we must love one another because God Himself is love; how could one who is born of God not love? Many do say that they love, but never exhibit this trait, showing that they are not truly born of God. God showed us what love is by first loving us, then demonstrating that love by sending His Son to be the payment for our sins. Because God is love whenever we show love in our lives we actually see what God is like. We experience this on a deeper level by His Spirit who con-

firms that we abide in God and He is us. This is only possible, however, when we confess that Jesus is the Son of God. When we abide in His love, though, it becomes so complete in us that all fear of judgment is driven out. A test of this love is if we love our brother whom we can see, because if we don't we really don't love God whom we can't see. Finally, our love for God is expressed as we joyfully keep His commandments—they aren't a burden to the one who loves Him. John then moves to another "nitty gritty" area—that of the witness to Jesus. Our faith is based on His true identity. He came by water—revealed as God's Son at His baptism and also by blood which revealed His humanity as He, the perfect man, died for our sins. God's Spirit is the One who bears witness within to the deity



Our fellowship is authentic when our beliefs, obedience and love are true.

and humanity of Jesus. When this witness is received it can be said that the one who has the Son has eternal life. Finally, John deals with the war we have to wage. This is waged on the fronts of prayer and of rescuing those who sin in a way that can be forgiven, rather than by renouncing their faith in Jesus. It is waged as well on the front of the world that lies in the power of the evil one. Instead of believing in the idols of this world that falsely represent Christ, we must believe in the true God and His Son. These are the nitty gritty areas of living the Christian life.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

Daily Study Questions for 1 John 4:7-5:21

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com, small groups, abf)

<p>1. Read 1 John 4:7-9. Where does love come from (v7, 8) and where was it seen most clearly (v9)? What result does this have for us (v9)?</p>	
<p>2. In 4:10-12 what did God do for us (v10) and what should that lead us to do (v11)? What benefit does that give us and why is that so great (v12)?</p>	
<p>3. From 4:13-15 how do we abide in God (v15) and how do we have assurance that we do (v13)? Why does it make sense to believe in Jesus (v14)?</p>	

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I John 4:7-5:21 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Using 1 John 4:16-21 how does God's love become complete in us (v16-17) and what does this do for us (v17-18)? Why should we love as God loved (v19-21)?

5. According to 5:1-3 what are two indicators that we truly love God (v1, 2-3)? Why are God's commands not a burden to those who love Him (v3)?

6. Read 5:4-6. How do we overcome the world (v4, 5)? Who is the object of our faith (v5b) and how is He described (v6)? What do you think this means?

7. From 5:7-12 what 3 things bear witness to Jesus' divine/human nature (v7-9)? Why is it necessary to believe this witness (v10, 11-12)?

8. In 5:13-15 what 2 things can we be confident of as believers (v13, 14-15)? What is the condition for receiving answered prayer (v14, 15)? How do you fulfill this condition?

9. Based on 5:16-17 what are 2 results of sin (v16, 17) and what do you think this means? How should we pray for each (v16)?

10. What assurances does 5:18-21 give (v18-19, 20)? What should we pursue (v20) and what should we guard against (v19, 21)?

11. Review 4:7-5:21. How should our love look, what should our witness be, and what are we to wage war against when we get down to "the nitty gritty"?

Scripture to Remember

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment...."

1 John 4:18 (NAS)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—What's Written on Your Life? (Col 4:7-14)

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Share with the group what you would like to have written on your tombstone, and why — "here lies a (man or woman) who _____".
2. Look at Col 4:7-9. Tychicus is an example of one "ready to serve" and Onesimus was the runaway slave who went back to his master. He is one who "did the right thing". Why are both of these so important in the church and in the world today? Why are they so rare?
3. In v10 Aristarchus was "faithful no matter what", and Mark "made good use of his mulligan". Talk about an area of your life where you can apply either one.
4. From v11 Jesus, called Justice, was known as an "encouragement" and Epaphras (v12-13) was a "faithful intercessor". Why are these important, but difficult?
5. Luke (v14) gave "all I have for the kingdom" - how is that a good example? On the other hand Demas was one who "failed to finish the course". Why do you think that happens?
6. Pick out one of these characteristics to work on and share it with your group.