

B. We must remain humble as we engage the world.

## VI. Warriors of Life Against Idols (21)

- A. We must keep ourselves from idols.
- B. This whole epistle is aimed at rooting out idolatry and presenting Jesus Christ as the true God and eternal life.
- C. We keep ourselves, or guard ourselves against idols by rooting out the love of the world (lust of the eyes, ... the flesh, the arrogance of possessions) replacing it with love for the true God which expresses itself in love for one another in practical, life-giving ways.

### LIVE THE STORY

*The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- How does John, throughout 1 John, describe how the person living the life of the coming age lives?
- Why do you think prayer takes up so much space in the conclusion to 1 John even though it was hardly mentioned previously?
- What example of a prayer that is according to God's will does John offer? How might this inform your prayer?
- How might John suggest (throughout 1 John) that a believer "keeps himself/herself"?
- What does it mean to say that the whole world is under the power of the evil one? Is anything exempt?
- How is it that Christians have escaped the power of the evil one? How should this speak to the importance of humility?
- What are the idols we must guard against idols that are identified in 1 John?

## Light, Life, Love – the Gospel we heard from Him

### *Fearless Warriors of Life*

Jerry Cisar — November 29, 2020

Text: 1 John 5:13-21

## Introduction

### I. Warriors of Life (13)

- A. Why John write this "sermon"?
  - i. 1:4; 2:1, 7-8, 12-14, 21, 26
  - ii. That we might know that we have the life of the coming age.
- B. To those who believe in the name of the Son of God.
  - i. Psalm 110:1-3 The Son of God is engaged in battle; those who believe in Him are His willing troops.
  - ii. We are warriors of life and not death.
  - iii. Just as the Jesus came with life in Himself, because we have the Son, we have life in ourselves too.

### II. Warriors of Life in Prayer (14-17)

- A. For John, prayer is one of the key applications of his teaching.
- B. That we can have confidence in the presence of God.
  - i. Fearlessness/confidence
  - ii. What is this fearlessness/confidence?

- C. “If anyone should see his or her brother or sister sin... he should pray asking that God would give life.” (16)
  - i. The basic instruction is that if we see a brother or sister sin, we need to pray for them that God would give them life.
  - ii. Compare with 3:16-17
  - iii. We distribute the life we have through the prayers we pray.

#### D. Sin that Leads to Death

- i. First, there is a sense in which John tells us that both kinds of sin have a hint of death to them. (Ref. Rom. 6:23).
- ii. Eli’s sons (1 Sam. 2:25)
- iii. John does not say that there is a sin that has already killed the person who commits it, but that it leads to death.
- iv. 1 Peter 4:8 with Matthew 18.

### III. Warriors of Life in Our Own Souls (18)

- A. A couple of translation/interpretation issues
  - i. Jesus or the believer?
  - ii. Who keeps who?
- B. While we are out waging a war of life against death, we can’t neglect our own souls.
- C. How do we keep ourselves?
  - i. Allowing God’s light to shine in our \_\_\_\_\_ hearts to reveal sin which we then confess.

- ii. By loving in deed and truth (3:18).
- iii. By rooting out anger and hatred, selfishness and worldliness.
- iv. By guarding against idols!

### IV. Warriors of Life on a Rescue Mission (19)

- A. John here creates a contrast between the one born of God and the whole world under the control of the evil one.
  - i. Ephesians 2:1-3
  - ii. 1 John 3:8 – Like *the* Son, as children, we are also to destroy the works of the devil in His name... rescuing others like we ourselves have been rescued.
- B. The whole world is under the power of the evil one?

Adolf Schlatter: It means that “the human race occupies a place in which everything that happens in and around it is exposed to the permeating influence of the Evil One. ...

“There is no situation in the world that can be entirely in keeping with God’s being, and no event transpires that actualizes the pure and unadulterated will of God. Nowhere do we find anything that could not possibly put us in danger. Nowhere is there a place where we might not be subject to falling, as if the one part of the world were dangerous, the other, in contrast, is not dangerous, so that we, for example, are on the safe side of danger in the church but are near to danger in drinking establishments. Or is it the case that one vocation is dangerous, but the other is free of harm? No, there is no place where satanic ideas are not able to penetrate, and there is no person incapable of bringing us into contact with evil.”

### V. Warriors of Life Because of a Gift (20)

- A. We only know what we know because the Son of God has come and given us understanding to know Him who is true.