

First John 3:19-24

First John 3:18 – “Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.”

5040 [e]	3361 [e]	25 [e]	3056 [e]	3366 [e]	3588 [e]	1100 [e]	235 [e]	1722 [e]	2041 [e]
Teknia	mē	agarōmen	logō	mēde	tē	glōssē	alla	en	ergō
18 Τεκνία ,	μὴ	ἀγαπῶμεν	λόγῳ ,	μηδὲ	τῇ	γλώσση ,	ἀλλὰ	ἐν	ἔργῳ
Little children	not	we should love	in word	nor	in	tongue	but	in	deed
N-VNP	Adv	V-PSA-1P	N-DMS	Conj	Art-DFS	N-DFS	Conj	Prep	N-DNS

2532 [e]	225 [e]
kai	alētheia
καὶ	ἀληθεία .
and	in truth
Conj	N-DFS

1. “**Little children**” refers to the readers. They are believers.
2. The four quadrants of love:
 - a. “**Word**” – The mental expression - *logo* from *logos* meaning “word”, “speech”. Logos is an expression of a thought, or a saying. It is mental reasoning expressed by words.
 - b. “**Talk**” – The physical expression of the mental expression. – *glosse* - This is the word often translated “tongue” or “tongues” (as in “speaking in tongues”) and it means “a tongue”, “a language”, “a nation” (because nationalities were distinguished by their different languages)
 - c. “**Deed**” – *ergo* from *ergon* meaning “work”, “labor”, “action”, “deed”, “task”, “employment”. It refers to something that is made or wrought (past tense of “work”, used instead of “worked”). A “deed” or *ergon* completes an intension or inner desire.
 - d. “**Truth**” – *alētheia* meaning “truth”, but more spoken truth. It means the idea is truth, it is reality, it has sincerity. It is truth in the moral sphere. In the ancient Greek *alētheia* was a synonym for “reality” and the antithesis of “illusion”. This is straightforwardness and is not an act or a mask. Not hypocritical in an attempt to appear to be “Christian”.
3. Another translation could be, “let us love not with words and mouth alone but with actions and in fact.”
4. John 3:16 expresses the love God has and what he did as a result. This is the example: God so loved that he gave.”

First John 3:19 – “By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him;”

2532 [e]	1722 [e]	3778 [e]	1097 [e]	3754 [e]	1537 [e]	3588 [e]	225 [e]	1510 [e]	2532 [e]
kai	en	toutō	gnōsometha	hoti	ek	tēs	alētheias	esmen	kai
19 [καὶ]	ἐν	τούτῳ	γνωσόμεθα	ὅτι	ἐκ	τῆς	ἀληθείας	ἐσμέν ,	καὶ
and	by	this	we will know	that	of	the	truth	we are	and
Conj	Prep	DPro-DNS	V-FIM-1P	Conj	Prep	Art-GFS	N-GFS	V-PIA-1P	Conj

1715 [e]	846 [e]	3982 [e]	3588 [e]	2588 [e]	1473 [e]
emprosthen	autou	peisomen	tēn	kardian	hēmōn
ἔμπροσθεν	αὐτοῦ	πείσομεν	τὴν	καρδίαν	ἡμῶν ,
before	him	will assure	the	heart	of us
Prep	PPro-GM3S	V-FIA-1P	Art-AFS	N-AFS	PPro-G1P

1. 3:19 concludes the previous thoughts, but leads into the fact that because the proceeding is a reality in our lives (hearts) we have confidence in prayer to God.
2. There is a paradox occurring here that can create confusion. John knows it ultimately it depends on God's life (light, spirit, seed, word) in our lives, but John also insist that we must be keeping the commands to believe in Jesus and to love the brothers.
3. "by this" (*en touto*) either points back (to 3:18, or even 3:14) or it points forward to the "that if" (*hoti ean*) of 3:20.
 - a. Support for pointing back is what most commentators say and support for that comes from examples in 3:10; 4:17; 5:2 and John 16:30.
 - b. Support for pointing forward 2:3 and 2:5
4. IMPORTANT: "we will know" (*gnosometha*) is in the future tense. It does not mean "we know now" while we are unchallenged in our faith and feel confident, but it means "we will know" at some point in the future most likely when our faith is weak, we are confused, we don't "feel" like God hears our prayers. John is giving them confidence for a future time when they face a crisis of faith. The confidence comes from answering the question: "Are you living a life of love by your **deeds** that **sincerely** reflect what you **think** and **say**?"
5. Sincere love in thought, word and deed will let us know in the moment of crisis these two things:
 - a. "we will know that of the truth we are" –
 - i. belonging to the truth is the same thing as saying "being born of God" or "being in Christ". Belonging to the Truth means you are in the divine dynasphere, the kingdom of light, seated with Christ in heavenly places.
 - b. "we will know that...before him will assure the heart of us" –
 - i. "will assure" (*peisomen* from *peitho*) means "to persuade" somebody to do something or "to convince" somebody that something is true
6. Before John continues with confirming the security of the believer he is going to take two verses to help those of us who examine ourselves and conclude we don't successfully pass the examination of sincerely loving in what we think, say or do.

First John 3:20 – "for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything."

3754 [e]	1437 [e]	2607 [e]	1473 [e]	3588 [e]	2588 [e]	3754 [e]	3173 [e]	1510 [e]
hoti	ean	kataginōskē	hēmōn	hē	kardia	hoti	meizōn	estin
20 ὅτι	ἐὰν	καταγινώσκη	ἡμῶν	ἡ	καρδία	, ὅτι	μείζων	ἐστὶν
that	if	should condemn [us]	our	-	heart	that	greater than	is
Conj	Conj	V-PSA-3S	PPro-G1P	Art-NFS	N-NFS	Conj	Adj-NMS-C	V-PIA-3S

3588 [e]	2316 [e]	3588 [e]	2588 [e]	1473 [e]	2532 [e]	1097 [e]	3956 [e]
ho	Theos	tēs	kardias	hēmōn	kai	ginōskei	panta
ὁ	Θεὸς	τῆς	καρδίας	ἡμῶν	, καὶ	γινώσκει	πάντα .
-	God	the	heart	of us	and	he knows	all things
Art-NMS	N-NMS	Art-GFS	N-GFS	PPro-G1P	Conj	V-PIA-3S	Adj-ANP

1. Point: If you fail the test and still condemn yourself, God is greater. We only know our own hearts and viewpoint. God knows all things.
2. 1 Corinthians 4:3-5

3. Even if your heart is condemning you there is still the promise of “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” – Romans 10:13 and Joel 2:32
4. Your thoughts, words, or deeds may condemn you, but your prayer for God’s intervention is still being heard by God.

First John 3:21 – “Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;”

27 [e]	1437 [e]	3588 [e]	2588 [e]	1473 [e]	3361 [e]	2607 [e]
Agapētoi	ean	hē	kardia	hēmōn	mē	kataginōskē
21 Ἀγαπητοί ,	ἐὰν	ἡ	καρδία	ἡμῶν	ἐν	καταγινώσκει
Beloved	if	the	heart	of us	not	should not condemn [us]
Adj-VMP	Conj	Art-NFS	N-NFS	PPro-G1P	Adv	V-PSA-3S

3954 [e]	2192 [e]	4314 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]
parrēsia	echomen	pros	ton	Theon
παρρησίαν	ἔχομεν	πρὸς	τὸν	Θεόν ,
confidence	we have	toward	-	God
N-AFS	V-PIA-1P	Prep	Art-AMS	N-AMS

First John 3:22 – “and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.”

2532 [e]	3739 [e]	1437 [e]	154 [e]	2983 [e]	575 [e]	846 [e]	3754 [e]	3588 [e]
kai	ho	ean	aitōmen	lambanomen	ap'	autou	hoti	tas
22 καὶ	ὅ	ἐὰν	αἰτῶμεν ,	λαμβάνομεν	ἀπ'	αὐτοῦ ,	ὅτι	τὰς
and	whatever	if	we might ask	we receive	from	him	because	the
Conj	RelPro-ANS	Conj	V-PSA-1P	V-PIA-1P	Prep	PPro-GM3S	Conj	Art-AFP

1785 [e]	846 [e]	5083 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	701 [e]	1799 [e]	846 [e]
entolas	autou	tēroumen	kai	ta	aresta	enōpion	autou
ἐντολὰς	αὐτοῦ	τηροῦμεν ,	καὶ	τὰ	ἀρεστὰ	ἐνώπιον	αὐτοῦ ,
commandments	of him	we keep	and	the things	pleasing	before	him
N-AFP	PPro-GM3S	V-PIA-1P	Conj	Art-ANP	Adj-ANP	Prep	PPro-GM3S

4160 [e]
poioumen
ποιοῦμεν .
we practice
V-PIA-1P

First John 3:23 – “And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.”

2532 [e]	3778 [e]	1510 [e]	3588 [e]	1785 [e]	846 [e]	2443 [e]	4100 [e]	3588 [e]
kai	hautē	estin	hē	entolē	autou	hina	pisteusōmen	tō
23 καὶ	αὕτη	ἐστὶν	ἡ	ἐντολὴ	αὐτοῦ ,	ἵνα	πιστεύσωμεν	τῷ
And	this	is	the	commandment	of him	that	we should believe	in the
Conj	DPro-NFS	V-PIA-3S	Art-NFS	N-NFS	PPro-GM3S	Conj	V-ASA-1P	Art-DNS

3686 [e]	3588 [e]	5207 [e]	846 [e]	2424 [e]	5547 [e]	2532 [e]	25 [e]	240 [e]
onomati	tou	Huiou	autou	Iēsou	Christou	kai	agarōmen	allēlous
ὀνόματι	τοῦ	Υἱοῦ	αὐτοῦ ,	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ ,	καὶ	ἀγαπῶμεν	ἀλλήλους ,
name	the	Son	of him	Jesus	Christ	and	we should love	one another
N-DNS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	PPro-GM3S	N-GMS	N-GMS	Conj	V-PSA-1P	RecPro-AMP

2531 [e]	1325 [e]	1785 [e]	1473 [e]
kathōs	edōken	entolēn	hēmin
καθὼς	ἔδωκεν	ἐντολὴν	ἡμῖν .
even as	he gave	[the] commandment	to us
Adv	V-AIA-3S	N-AFS	PPro-D1P

First John 3:24 – “Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.”

2532 [e]	3588 [e]	5083 [e]	3588 [e]	1785 [e]	846 [e]	1722 [e]	846 [e]	3306 [e]	2532 [e]
kai	ho	tērōn	tas	entolas	autou	en	autō	menei	kai
24 καὶ	ὁ	τηρῶν	τὰς	ἐντολὰς	αὐτοῦ	, ἐν	αὐτῷ	μένει	, καὶ
And	the [one]	keeping	the	commandments	of him	in	him	abides	and
Conj	Art-NMS	V-PPA-NMS	Art-AFP	N-AFP	PPro-GM3S	Prep	PPro-DM3S	V-PIA-3S	Conj

846 [e]	1722 [e]	846 [e]	2532 [e]	1722 [e]	3778 [e]	1097 [e]	3754 [e]	3306 [e]	1722 [e]
autos	en	autō	kai	en	toutō	ginōskomen	hoti	menei	en
αὐτός	ἐν	αὐτῷ	καὶ	ἐν	τούτῳ	γινώσκομεν	ὅτι	μένει	ἐν
he	in	him	and	by	this	we know	that	he abides	in
PPro-NM3S	Prep	PPro-DM3S	Conj	Prep	DPro-DNS	V-PIA-1P	Conj	V-PIA-3S	Prep

1473 [e]	1537 [e]	3588 [e]	4151 [e]	3739 [e]	1473 [e]	1325 [e]
hēmin	ek	tou	Pneumatōs	hou	hēmin	edōken
ἡμῖν	, ἐκ	τοῦ	Πνεύματος	οὗ	ἡμῖν	ἔδωκεν
us	by	the	Spirit	whom	to us	he gave
PPro-D1P	Prep	Art-GNS	N-GNS	RelPro-GNS	PPro-D1P	V-AIA-3S

First John 4:1 – “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

27 [e]	3361 [e]	3956 [e]	4151 [e]	4100 [e]	235 [e]	1381 [e]	3588 [e]
Agapētoi	mē	panti	pneumatī	pisteuete	alla	dokimazete	ta
1 Ἀγαπητοί , μὴ		παντὶ	πνεύματι	πιστεύετε ,	ἀλλὰ	δοκιμάζετε	τὰ
Beloved	not	every	spirit	believe	but	test	the
Adj-VMP	Adv	Adj-DNS	N-DNS	V-PMA-2P	Conj	V-PMA-2P	Art-ANP

4151 [e]	1487 [e]	1537 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	1510 [e]	3754 [e]	4183 [e]	5578 [e]
pneumata	ei	ek	tu	Theou	estin	hoti	polloi	pseudoprophētai
πνεύματα , εἰ		ἐκ	τοῦ	Θεοῦ	ἐστίν ,	ὅτι	πολλοὶ	ψευδοπροφήται
spirits	whether	of	-	God	they are	because	many	false prophets
N-ANP	Conj	Prep	Art-GMS	N-GMS	V-PIA-3S	Conj	Adj-NMP	N-NMP

1831 [e]	1519 [e]	3588 [e]	2889 [e]
exelēlythasin	eis	ton	kosmon
ἐξεληλύθασιν	εἰς	τὸν	κόσμον .
have gone out	into	the	world
V-RIA-3P	Prep	Art-AMS	N-AMS