



# The Challenge of Love

1 John 3:16-24

# Gnosticism

**Goal: Salvation achieved through knowledge, more often mystical knowledge**

**The universal dualism in Gnosticism consists of the divide between the good, spiritual world and the evil, material world.**

**The material world was considered inherently evil, and the body was viewed as a prison for a divine spark possessed by spiritual people.**



# 1 John 3

**:16 Love is known in its other-centeredness; just as Jesus laid down his life for us to free his love within us for others.**



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# 1 John 3

**:17 The indwelling love of God compels one to live sensitively aware of people around us, and not to exclude those in need.**



# James

**:14 My friends, if your faith [in your true identity] is not practical and visible in your conduct it is fake and cannot benefit you in any way.**

**:15 Let's bring it closer to home [I am not even talking about your duty to strangers], someone in your own family might be struggling financially to the extent that they do not even have the basics as far as clothes and food are concerned.**



# James

**:16 What's the good if you keep your contact with them very brief and distant and wave them goodbye with empty words, something like, "May the Lord richly bless you brother! Be warm, be fed, ok, bye! Have a great day!" A coat and a cup of soup is going to say so much more!**

**:17 It is clear then that without corresponding acts of kindness, faith on its own is fake.**



# 1 John 3

**:18 My darling children, lets not deceive ourselves by paying lip service to love while we can truly live the dynamic of love in our practical daily doing!**



# 1 John 3

**:19 In this we know that our beingness is sourced in that which is really true about us; our doing good is not phoney or make-belief; this is who we are in God's sight!**





# 1 John 3

**: 20 So, even if our own hearts would accuse us of not really being true to ourselves, God is greater than our hearts and he has the full picture! His knowledge of us is not compromised.**



# 1 John 3

**:21 Beloved when we know what God knows to be true about us, then instead of condemning us, our hearts will endorse our innocence and free our conversation before God.**



# 1 John 3

**: 22 Now, instead of begging God, we speak with confident liberty as sons. We also treasure the conclusion of his prophetic purpose [in redeeming our sonship] and fully accommodate ourselves to his desires and pleasure! Knowing the warmth in his eyes inspire poetic freedom in our every expression.**



# 1 John 3

**: 23 And this is the ultimate conclusion of his intention and desire that we would be fully persuaded concerning the name of Jesus Christ who has successfully accomplished his mission as the Son of God to rescue mankind's authentic sonship! Our love for one another completes his joy!**



# 1 John 3

**: 24 Everyone who treasures this final conclusion of God's dream, abides unhindered in seamless oneness in him and he in them. His gift of the Spirit is to endorse our awareness of his abiding within us!**





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