

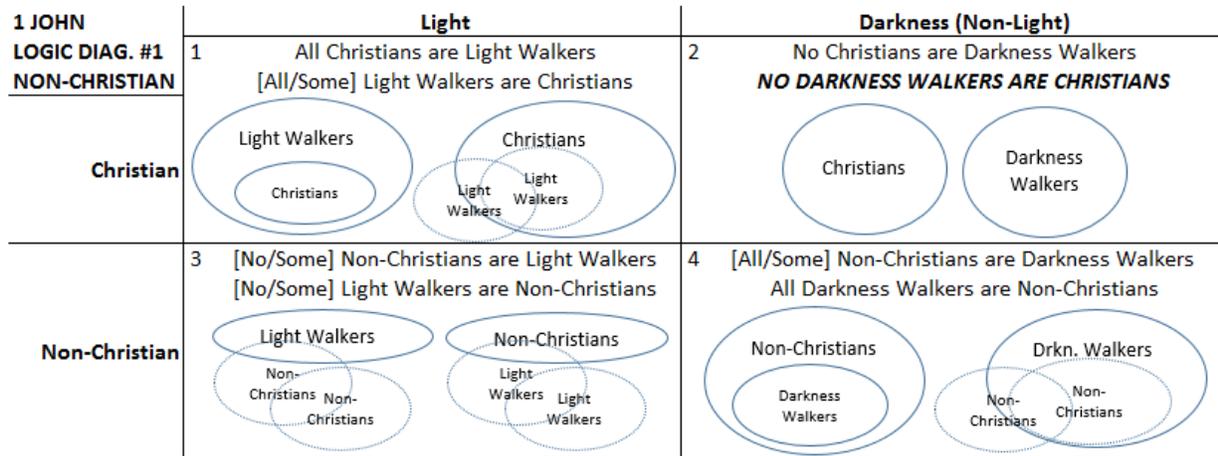
The apostle John wrote the epistle of 1 John to tell us about the inevitable joyful consequences of our union with God through knowledge of Jesus Christ, who is Light and Life. “That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship [koinonia, union] with us, ... with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ,” (1:3). Anyone can claim to have union with God; “if we say that we have fellowship [union] with him” etc. (1:6). But John proves ‘All Christians, and only Christians, will always walk in faith, obedience, and love’; and ‘All Non-Christians, and only Non-Christians, will always walk in unbelief, disobedience, and hatred’. For Christians, the desire of our hearts to walk in faith, obedience, and love is guaranteed. Union with God always changes a person. Hallelujah! Joy! “These things write we unto you, that your joy may be full,” 1 John 1:4.

The book is arranged in three major sections: Light (1:1-2:11), Life (2:12-3:17), and Knowledge (3:18-5:21). Like an upward spiral, John covers the same three things - faith, obedience, and love - as they relate to the topic of each section. In the first section on Light; faith, obedience, and love are each tested three times: first by the claim of a non-Christian, then as a Christian, and then again as a non-Christian (see chart below). Finally, each test has four parts: a claim to be a Christian, the evidence that proves or disproves the claim, the verdict as to the claim, and the verdict as to being a Christian.

1 JOHN OUTLINE: SECTION 1: LIGHT 1:1-2:12

<u>Non-Christian</u>	<u>General Test 1:6</u>	<u>Faith Test 1:8</u>	<u>Obedience Test 2:4</u>	<u>Love Test 2:9</u>
Claim: Christian	if we say we have union	if we say we have no sin	he that saith I know him	he that saith he is in the light
Evidence	and walk in darkness	(if we say we have no sin)	and keepeth not his com.	and hateth his brother
Verdict re Claim	we lie	we deceive ourselves	is a liar	is in darkness
Verdict re Christian	do not the truth: Jn8:44	the truth is not in us: 2Jn1:2	truth is not in him: Jn14:17	even unto now: 1Thes5:4
Implications: See Logic Diag. #1. No Darkness Walkers are Christians (Tares), No Chrs are DrknWkrs (No Carnal Chrs), All Chrs are LgtWkrs (Joy!)				
<u>Christian</u>	<u>General Test 1:7</u>	<u>Faith Test 1:9</u>	<u>Obedience Test 2:5</u>	<u>Love Test 2:10</u>
Claim: Christian	(if we say we have union)	if we confess our sins	(he that saith I know him)	(he that saith he is in the light)
Evidence	if we walk in the light	(if we confess our sins)	whoso keepeth his word	that loveth his brother
Verdict re Claim	we have union	faithful .. to forgive our sins	truly ... love of God (> know)	abideth in the light
Verdict re Christian	cleanses ... all sin: Eph1:17	cleanse ... all unright: Rev1:5	we are in him: 1Jn4:15	none occasion of stumbl: Jn8:12
Implications: See Logic Diag. #2. All Light Walkers are Christians, No Non-Chrs are LgtWkrs (No Ghandis), All Non-Chris are DrksWkrs				
<u>Non-Christian</u>		<u>Faith Test 1:10</u>	<u>Obedience Test 2:6</u>	<u>Love Test 2:11</u>
Claim: Christian		if we say we have not sinned	he that saith he abideth in him	(he that saith he is in the light)
Evidence		(if we say we have not sinned)	ought to ... walk ... as he walked	he that hateth his brother
Verdict re Claim		we make him a liar	(he lies)	is in darkness
Verdict re Christian		his word is not in us: Jn5:38-40	(ought to [but doesn't]) 1Jn3:5-6	in darkness ... blinded: 2Cor4:4
Implications: See Logic Diag. #3. All Christians and Only Christians are Light Walkers, All Non-Christians and Only Non-Christians are DrksWkrs				

Section 1: Light. Subsection 1: General Test. Non-Christian. John says a man who claims to be a Christian but walks in darkness lies and is not a Christian. (“Do not the truth” is equivalent to saying, “is not a Christian” because, per the outline chart, John 8:44 says it’s to do what “your father the devil,” does.) To ‘walk’ refers to a general way of life, and the direction of the journey, and not to every individual step. Sometimes non-Christians do right things but their general way of life is darkness.



See Logic Diagram #1 above where John tests a Non-Christian. “If we say that we have union with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth,” 1 John 1:6, makes the logic statement, “No Darkness Walkers are Christians” (Diagram #1, Square 2.) The implication of this is that a darkness walker that claims to be a Christian is actually a ‘tare,’ a false brother. Per the diagram, a logical equivalent to “No Darkness Walkers are Christians” is, “No Christians are Darkness Walkers” (Also Square 2.) The implication of this is that there’s no such thing as a ‘carnal Christian,’ or ‘backslidden Christian.’ The term ‘carnal Christian’ appears nowhere in the Bible, and in 1 Corinthians 3:3 Paul said he had to speak unto them only “AS unto carnal.” Also, a logical equivalent of “No Christians are Darkness Walkers,” is “All Christians are Light Walkers,” (Square 1). The walk is guaranteed because of our union with God, but we should strive to make each one towards maturity and completeness so we can bear an hundredfold. But knowing we will certainly walk in the light because of our union with God, and that we are guaranteed at least thirtyfold fruit, gives us fullness of joy! But these logic statements still leave some ambiguities. It’s a logical fallacy to assume that because “All Collies are Dogs”, that “All Dogs are Collies.” And “All Christians are Light Walkers” doesn’t logically require that “All Light Walkers are Christians,” because it could also be that only “Some Light Walkers are Christians,” and “Some Light Walkers

are Non-Christians.”

1 JOHN LOGIC DIAG. #2 CHRISTIAN		Light	Darkness (Non-Light)
Christian	1	[All/Some] Christians are Light Walkers ALL LIGHT WALKERS ARE CHRISTIANS	2
Non-Christian	3	No Non-Christians are Light Walkers No Light Walkers are Non-Christians	4

Section 1: Light. Subsection 1: General Test. Christian. John says a man who claims to be a Christian who walks in the light, is telling the truth, and he’s really a Christian. This makes the logic statement that “All Light Walkers are Christians,” per Logic Diagram #2 above. And this is logically equivalent to saying “No Non-Christians are Light Walkers.” The implication of this is that the Ghandi’s of this world are not actually Light Walkers. You would see this if you got to know them on a personal level, beyond the popular reports. But if we look at this Christian test alone, there are ambiguities. “All Light Walkers are Christians” does not logically necessitate that “All Christians are Light Walkers,” for example. Perhaps only “Some Christians are Light Walkers.”

Finally, by combining both the Non-Christian test and the Christian test into Logic Diagram #3 below, all ambiguities are removed, and we find that “All Christians, and Only Christians, are Light Walkers,” and “All Non-Christians, and Only Non-Christians, are Darkness Walkers.”

1 JOHN LOGIC DIAG. #3 COMBINED		Light	Darkness (Non-Light)
Christian	1	All Christians are Light Walkers All Light Walkers are Christians	2
Non-Christian	3	No Non-Christians are Light Walkers No Light Walkers are Non-Christians	4

(John includes the non-Christian test twice for each subsection, except the General subsection, because, ironically, it has the most important implications for believers. “All Christians are Light Walkers,” is our source of Joy. “All Darkness Walkers are Non-Christians,” is hard for us to believe as Christians; “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators,” etc. (1 Cor. 6:9-10). “No Christians are Darkness Walkers,” proves there are not various classes of Christians such as ‘carnal’ and ‘spiritual,’ and provides a valid and powerful mindset to fight against sinning in contrast to the false, ‘second blessing’ related systems such as “The Christians Secret of a Happy Life.”)

Section 1: Light. Subsection 2: Faith Test. Non-Christian. In the “Faith” subsection, the way the claim to be a Christian is stated also serves as the evidence. (It’s in parenthesis in the chart.) We need to read between the lines of a person’s testimony. “Do you know you’re going to heaven?” “Oh sure, I’ve gone to church all my life,” shows they’re trusting in their own works, like the self-righteous Pharisee that went into the temple and prayed, “I thank you I’m not like this publican.” Most Non-Christians don’t come right out and say they “have no sin.” Instead, they say, “Oh, sure I’ve sinned. Everybody has. I’m not as bad as many people.”

Faith Test. Christian. A Christian is a person who has confessed, agreed with God, that he is a sinner; and thus has been cleansed from all his sins per the provision and promise of God. 1 John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness,” does not mean that Christians should confess their sins to God to maintain their fellowship, because 1) all our sins past, present, and future were forgiven and cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ when we believed on Christ, 2) we can’t do an adequate job of confessing sins, and 3) nowhere else does the New Testament say Christians should confess their sins to God, although it does say there’s value in confessing sins to each other, “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another,” James 5:16. The position of 1 John 1:9 within the Outline chart above, and within the purpose of John writing this epistle, shows this verse is talking about how a person’s testimony provides evidence as to whether or not they are a Christian; and assures us that a Christian will always continue to believe the right doctrine about salvation by faith. Joy! (It would not be joy to have to keep some amount of sins confessed to stay in ‘close fellowship with God,’ or ‘to have power with God.’)

Outline

Introduction 1:1-4

		<i>Intro</i>	<i>Faith</i> <i>(Truth/Doctrine)</i>	<i>Obedience</i> <i>(Righteousness)</i>	<i>Love</i>
	<i>Light</i>	1:5-7	1:8-2:2*	2:3-6	2:7-11**
Body	<i>Life</i>	2:12-17	2:18-27	2:28-3:10*	3:11-17**
	<i>Knowledge</i>	3:18-24a	3:24b-4:6*	Love 4:7-5:2*	Righteousness 5:3-17

Conclusion 5:18-21

The chapter divisions in our Bibles demonstrate a lack of understanding of the structure of 1 John as evidenced by:

**Major sections that end in the middle of a chapter. *Subsections that span two chapters.