

I. Believe and Receive.

- A. When it comes to eternal life (a quality of life in God's presence), right belief about Jesus is important.**
- B. To receive eternal life we must believe in Jesus and accept him as Savior and Lord.**

II. Those Who Believe and Receive.

A. Are born of God (v.1).

- 1. This second birth is a spiritual birth (John 3:6) and makes us children of God (John 1:12) and co-heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:16,17).**
- 2. The spiritual life cycle.**
 - a. Innocence (Matt. 19:14).**
 - b. Sin/Death (Rom. 6:23).**
 - c. Salvation /Life (John 1:12,13).**

B. Love God and his children (v.1).

- 1. Agape love is the unconditional, unselfish, sacrificial giving of oneself to another.**
- 2. It's not so much something you feel, it's something you do; it's a decision.**
- 3. God implants his love in our heart; this divine implant enables us to love like we should.**

C. Obey God's commands (v.2,3).

- 1. Jesus says, "If you love me, you will obey what I command (John 14:15).**
- 2. The best way to show our love for the Lord is to live in obedience to the Lord.**
- 3. The best way to show our love for people is by teaching them in word and deed how to become more like Jesus.**

D. Overcome the world (v.4,5).

- 1. Jesus doesn't want us to be like the world (to subscribe to the worldly belief system that's characterized by sinful desire and selfish pride); he wants us to be like him.**
- 2. We don't have to succumb to the world because we have power to overcome the world (1 John 4:4).**
- 3. To overcome the world we need to connect with the indwelling Holy Spirit and allow his power to flow in us and through us.**