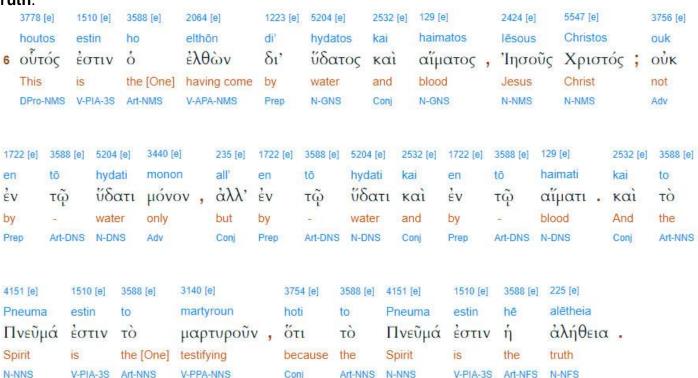
First John 5:6-12

- 1. 5:6-12 focus on "witness" or "testimony"
 - a. Both "witness" and "testimony" are based on the Greek word *martus* where we get the English word "martyr"
 - b. Nine times you can see in the Greek the root word *martus* in these 6 verses.
- 2. 5:13 serves as a summary of the whole book, while also dividing the "God is love" section (3:11-5:12) with the conclusion of the book (5;13-21)
- 3. God has provided three witnesses for the believer.
 - a. Spirit
 - b. Water
 - c. Blood

First John 5:6 – "This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth."

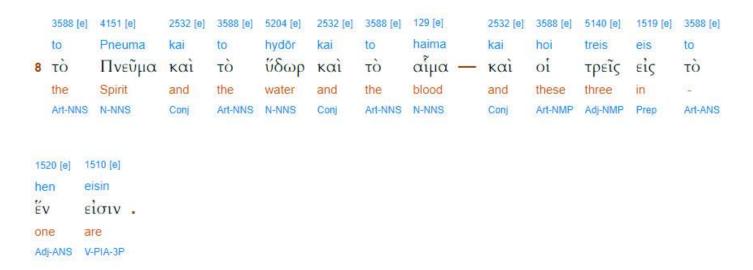


- 1. Christian faith is based on the historical fact that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
- 2. This fact needs witnesses, and so, John provides three to testify to this truth. A principle established in Deuteronomy 19:15 "A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses"
- 3. Three options for the interpretation of "water and blood"
 - a. Baptism (water) and Lord's Supper (blood)
 - i. Originates in the Reformation, but without Martin Luther or John Calvin's support.
 - 1. Luther said most teach the two sacraments, but he said it referred to Baptism done the right way so that the sprinkling of the blood of Christ could later be applied in life.
 - Calvin said water and blood referred to the ancient rites of the Law...blood was the expiation...but, concerning the water, Calvin said it is improbable that it refers to baptism.
 - ii. Problems:

- 1. John is combatting false teachers who rejected the human nature of Jesus. This is not on topic
- 2. John uses the past tense "the one who came" which places the event in history. But, the rites of baptism and the Supper are current events.
- 3. Water matches baptism, but the blood does not fit the Lord's Supper rite.
- b. "Blood and Water" flowed when the spear was thrust into Jesus' side on the cross.
 - i. Augustine went with this.
 - ii. Problems:
 - 1. The word order is reversed
 - 2. John says came by water and blood, but the blood and water on the cross came from Jesus
 - 3. 5:8 says, "Jesus did not come by water only, but by water and blood." This doesn't fit
- c. Jesus' baptism (water) and Jesus' crucifixion (blood)
 - i. Jesus "came" into power at his baptism. The baptism was a testimony of Jesus being the Son of God. God spoke from heaven.
 - ii. Jesus "came" into the completion of his work at the crucifixion.
 - iii. Both these events are historical and past events in John's day
 - iv. John is countering early Gnostic teaching. These false teachers
 - 1. Denied the humanity of Jesus but both the baptism and the crucifixion prove the incarnation of the Christ.
 - 2. Cerinthus (and others) taught that the spirit of the Christ came upon the man Jesus at the baptism, but left him before the cross. Thus, the statement: "not by water only but by water and by blood."
 - 3. Jesus, the Son of God, experienced historically both the testimony of water and the testimony of blood.
- d. The Spirit of God reveals and testifies to this apparent failure of a man's ministry by testifying to believers that Jesus death was followed by the resurrection and glory because he was more than a man. Jesus was God.
- e. Literally this says: "This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ. Not in the water only but in the blood."

First John 5:7 – "For there are three that testify:"

First John 5:8 - "the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree."



First John 5:9 – "If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son."

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First John 5:10 – "Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son."

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First John 5:11 – "And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."



First John 5:12 - "Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."

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