

B. **Answered** Prayer (v 22).

“I Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.” Isaiah 59:1

“Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.” I Peter 3:7

C. **Abiding** (vs 23-24).

*“36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”
37 Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’
38 This is the first and great commandment.
39 And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’
40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.””* Matthew 22:36-40

*“14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”
16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,”* Romans 8:14-16

OVERCOME ~ I JOHN
Overcome Division
Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

A. God has called His children to overcome. We can and should live victorious over the difficulties in this world.

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.”
I John 5:4

B. The book of I John is a game plan for victory. In this series you will discover how to overcome many difficulties in your life.

May 8	Overcome Sin
May 15	Overcome Hypocrisy
May 22	Overcome Deception
May 29	Overcome Impurity
TODAY	Overcome Division
June 12	Overcome False Teaching
June 19	Overcome Fear
June 26	Overcome Defeat

Come and apply these messages and develop a victorious game plan.

C. **TEXT:** I John 3:11-24 (Pew Bible/Pg.1196/New Test.)

Love is one of the central themes in I John (2:9-11; 3:11-24; 4:7-21).

HOW TO OVERCOME DIVISION

I. THE REQUIREMENTS FOR UNITY (3:11-18)

A. Supernatural life (vs 11-15).

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”
II Corinthians 5:17

“...Love the brotherhood....” I Peter 2:17b

*“4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,
5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.
8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.”* Genesis 4:4-5,8

“If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” John 15:19

“bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.” Colossians 3:13

B. Sacrificial love (vs 16-18).

*“34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.
35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”* John 13:34-35

“26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.

27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—

28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Matthew 20:26-28

“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,” Says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.” Malachi 3:10

“1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

2 Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith”

Galatians 6:1-2, 10

II. THE RESULTS OF UNITY (3:19-24)

A. Assurance (vs 19-21).

“This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.”

Acts 24:16

“23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.” Matthew 5:23-24