

Effective Intercessory Prayer – 1 John 5:16-17

Grace Bible Chapel

1st John Study

Sunday – January 11, 2026

CONTEXT: John provides this letter for our personal examination for true Christianity based on whether we are reflecting God's life by our sanctification (1 John 5:13). Beginning in verse 5:14 he turns our attention to prayer and the effectiveness of our prayers of intercession. This theme continues. These two verses (1 John 5:16-17) are among the most controversial in all of Scripture. There are many different interpretations. The correct interpretation will show them to be of the utmost value in understanding not only how God answers our prayers, but for our clarity in relation to John's epistle describing true Salvation. These two verses practically define praying according to God's will and how His will is seen differently in those who belong to God from those who do not belong to God. By these verses we are instructed as to how we are to think and respond in prayer for others. As new creatures in Christ we have the privilege of intercessory prayer.

Outline of 1st John (underlined portion is the immediate context)

- I. The Reality of Fellowship with Christ (1:5- 5:12)
 - A. The Consequence of Fellowship (1st John 5:1-15)
 - 1. Conquering the world (1 John 5:1-4)
 - 2. Confident reliance on Christ (1 John 5:5-12)
 - 3. Conclusive purpose (1 John 5:13-15)
 - 4. Competent prayer (1 John 5:16-17)

Key Words & times used

- sin (5)
- death (3)
- ask (2)
- commit or committing (2)

Introduction:

- Scrutiny -

Who? - _____

What? - _____

Where? – _____

When? - _____

Why? - _____

How? – _____

- Vs. 16 – Synthesis –

- Vs. 17 - Somber reality –

Closing:
