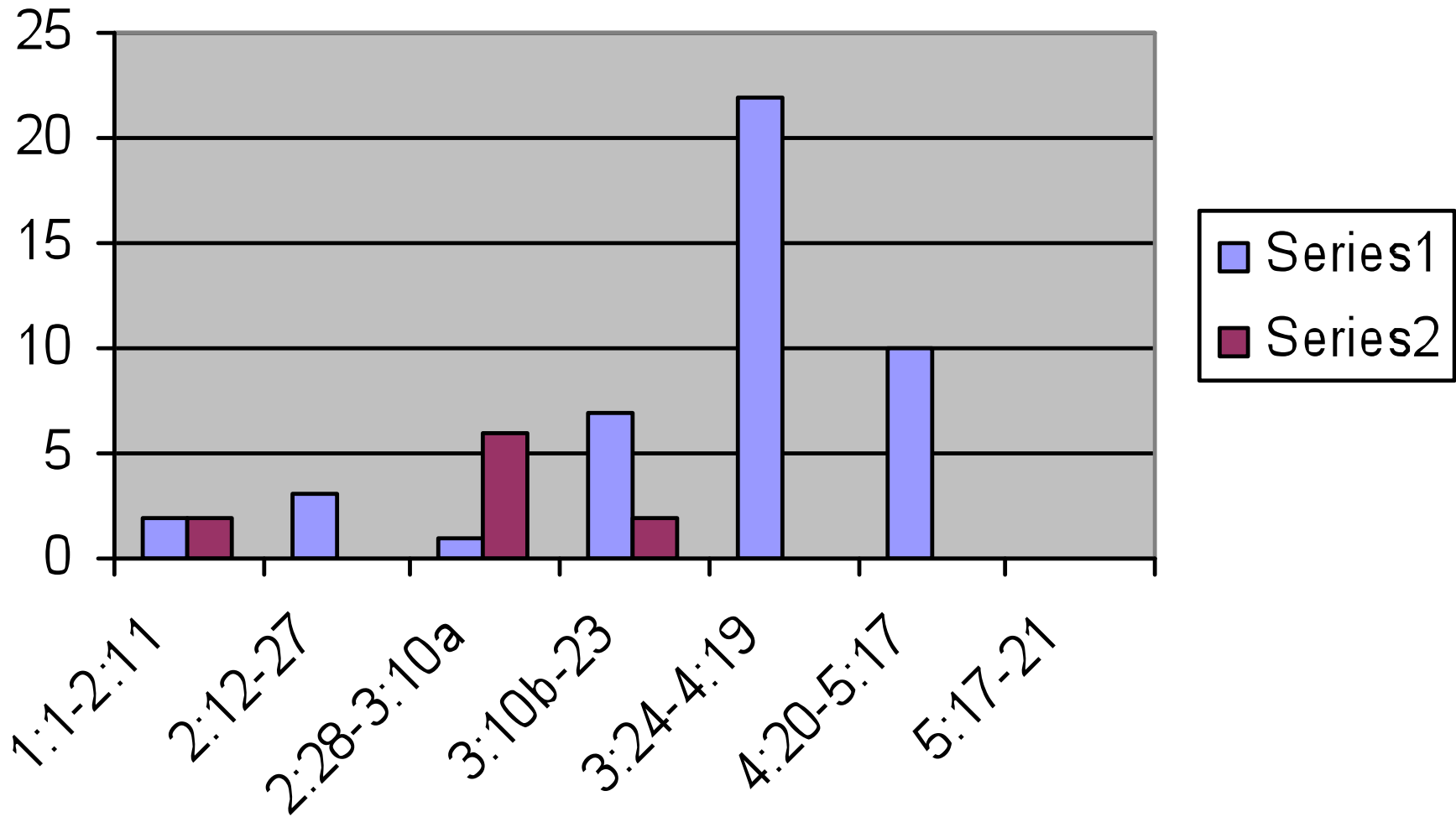


# Love vs. Righteousness



## ***Human Relations***

**Respect exists *only* if we see others as images of God (everything else is approbation lust/peer-pressure or power lust/manipulation)**

**Stability exists *only* if respect is built upon God's unchanging image (not changing beauty, personality, usefulness)**

**Freedom from manipulation, enabling, and antagonism *only* if eternal life is exercised**

## Main section of 2:28-5:17

**2:28-4:19** how to attain ultimate confidence and avoid shame before God through sharing eternal life with fellow believers “under fire” (“bookends” of 2:28 & 4:17-19 expose the logic of John)

**2:29-3:10a** Distinguishing the righteousness of God in our experience

**3:10b-3:23** The +R work of God in believers warrants our love toward it & results in expectation of answered prayer on their behalf

**3:24-4:16** How the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is recognized through illumination of Christ’s identity & the expression of his love toward other believers

**4:20-5:17** practical points in loving the brethren—priority of love of God, motivating energy for conquering cosmic opposition, and consequences in our prayer life

**4:20-5:3a** Love of God is the basis of love of brethren

**5:3b-5:15** Cosmic opposition is defeated only by biblically authentic faith

**5:16-17** Discerning and confidence prayer is the result

# The Johannine “Comma”

- *“ . . . because there are three that bear witness*
- *[in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit and these three are one and there are three that bear witness on earth]*
- *the Spirit, the water, and the blood and these three agree in one”*

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# John's Closing Remarks

- #1 (5:18) New God-given capacity for victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil (*divine operating assets*)
- #2 (5:19) Hostile environment that passively allows itself to be manipulated by Satanic Christ-hating agenda (*not to seek approbation from fallen civilization*)
- #3 (5:20) Capacity to think His thoughts after Him, to enter into an increasingly deeper relationship with Him. To know him this way = *experiencing EL*