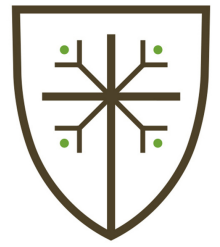


# SERMON NOTES



September 25, 2022

SERMONS ON FIRST JOHN

## Reasons to Stay

All Saints Presbyterian Church

### SERMON INFO

#### TITLE

Reasons to Stay: No  
Condemnation

#### PREACHER

Rev. Brent Baker

#### TEXTS

Genesis 2:25, 3:6-11, 21  
1 John 3:19-24  
John 14:15-17

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some present-day "fig leaves" we use to cloak our condemnation?
2. How does the Spirit reassure us that we belong to God? Think about community and relationship...

### SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, we looked at confidence and condemnation. Brent told us that John's stated goal in writing the Epistle (and his Gospel) is so that we might know. This knowledge is not a simple head knowledge - not something we know because we have all the facts - but a confidence, a sure and certain hope. Throughout 1 John we've seen the repeated themes of true faith, true obedience, and true love. But these three themes often do not reassure us before God. Guilt begins to set in and the presence of God becomes, as Brent said, "like a room full of accusations." Our hearts condemn us and we are, like Adam and Eve in the garden, tempted to hide, retreat, minimize, and deny. The answer lies not, as the world often tells us, in looking within ourselves, but in God for God is greater than our hearts.

Just as God clothed Adam and Eve, creating a path out of condemnation by sacrifice, so God has created a path out of our condemnation in the person of Jesus Christ. That sacrifice makes us able to stand with confidence in God's presence.

God knows the struggles we face as even our own hearts condemn us. And so, he gives us the Spirit of truth - the Helper, Advocate, Paraclete - to stand and testify on our own behalf. He assures us, forms us, and puts our hearts at rest.