



**“The Three Witnesses”**

**1 John 5:6-12**

**Perfect Love: The Book of 1 John**

**Introduction:**

The four purposes for the Epistle of 1 John:

1. To give eyewitness testimony about Jesus (1 John 1:3-4)
2. To warn about false teachers (1 John 2:26)
3. To exhort the saints not to sin (1 John 2:1)
4. To give the saints assurance of salvation (1 John 5:13)

**“...the enemy of the truth, is within.”**

1 John 5:6-12 “This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son. The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

The Court of Public Opinion Concerning the Person and Work of Jesus of Nazareth.

**I. The False Charges**

**The Case of Jesus of Nazareth vs. Those Who Deny His Nature and His Ministry**

**Charge #1: “Jesus of Nazareth is not the person he claimed to be.”**

**Charge #2: “Jesus of Nazareth deceived masses into believing that he was the Christ, the divine Son of God.”**

**Charge #3: “Jesus of Nazareth was neither Christ nor divine in nature.”**

**II. His Opening Statement**

1 John 5:6 “This is the One who came...”

1 John 1:1-3 “What was from the beginning, what WE have heard, what WE have seen with our eyes, what WE have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life— and the life was manifested, and WE have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us—what WE have seen and heard WE proclaim to you also.”

**III. His Three Witnesses**

1 John 5:6 “It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.”

1 John 5:7-8 “For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.”

- Some say it refers to Jesus’ physical birth and death.

- Others teach that it refers to the water and blood flowing from Jesus' side when the soldier pierced Him with a spear.
- Some think it may refer to the ordinances of baptism and communion.
- Most scholars believe John is referring to the witness of Christ's public ministry...namely
- His water baptism in the Jordan River at the beginning of His public ministry
- His bloody crucifixion on Calvary's Cross at the end of His public ministry.

#### **Witness #1: The Water of Jesus' Baptism at the Beginning of His Public Ministry**

Matthew 3:16-17 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." (cf. John 12:28)

The waters of baptism cried out to the world: "Jesus is the fully human Son of Man and the fully divine Son of God."

#### **Witness #2: The Blood of Jesus on the Cross at the End of His Public Ministry**

Matthew 27:54 Now the centurion, and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, became very frightened and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

i.e., "Jesus of Nazareth was a real person, who died a real death."

It was Jesus Christ who experienced both water baptism and bloody crucifixion.

#### **Witness #3: The Testimony of God Himself Throughout His Public Ministry**

1 John 5:6 "It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is truth."

John 5:36-37 "But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me." (cf. Acts 2:22)

God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit testify that Jesus Christ is who He said He is and did what He said He would do.

#### **IV. His Closing Statement**

1 John 5:6 "For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement."

Old Testament Law required two or three witnesses for a matter to be confirmed (cf. Deut. 19:15)

#### **V. Our Possible Responses to the Testimonies**

1 John 5:9-10 "If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son. The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son."

##### **Response #1: We can receive the testimony as from God Himself**

1 John 5:9 "If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater..."

i.e., "...when God Almighty says, 'This is My Beloved Son' --- then this is His Beloved Son."

##### **Response #2: We can believe in the Son of God**

1 John 5:10 "The one who believes in the Son of God..."

### Response #3. We can welcome the testimony as a part of ourselves.

1 John 5:10 “The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself...”

Therefore, we have only two choices: to believe it or reject it. We do not have the option of ignoring it.

## VI. The Impact of the Trial

1 John 5:11-12 “And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.”

### 1. God has given us eternal life as a free gift.

1 John 5:11 “...God has truly given us eternal life...”

Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

John 10:27–29 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”

### 2. Eternal life is truly found only in His Son

1 John 5:11 “...this life is in His Son.”

John 10:10 “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly.”

### 3. Eternal life is truly guaranteed in His Son

1 John 5:12 “He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.”

1 John 5:5 “Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

#### **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Are you aware of any who make false charges against who Jesus is and what He came to do?
2. What is the strongest evidence you hold on to regarding who Jesus is and what He came to do?
3. What is your personal response to the testimonies regarding who Jesus is and what He came to do?
4. What did you get most out of this message?