

## ***Evidence for Assurance Consistency toward Christlikeness***

***How do we know whether or not we are truly Christians?***

***Confidence and assurance are important human attributes.***

***To lack either opens the door to trouble in life.***

***The same is true in the Christian life.***

***Trying to live the Christian life while lacking assurance that you are truly a Christian is like driving a car with the brakes on.***

***A common question Christians ask is, “Can I know that I really know God?”***

***“Can I know that I am saved?”***

***Some people will tell you that you can never know. Many religious groups would tell you there is no way to know for sure whether you are going to Heaven or Hell (assuming they believe in Heaven or Hell).***

***You just have to die and find out!***

***Since Heaven or Hell awaits us all, not to know where you will spend eternity is the worst form of ignorance and negligence!***

***Your eternal destiny is not something about which you can afford to be ambivalent!***

***There can be no more paramount issue in your life than the issue of whether or not your sins are forgiven and you are in a right relationship with God.***

***If you don't know, you are in a precarious position.***

***The religion of “I don't know” is the devil's religion. When you come to die, you will regret not making sure of this crucial matter earlier.***

***So, we must examine ourselves... we must take a test!***

***What are the tell-tale marks of a genuine Believer?***

***2 Corinthians 13:5 (ESV)***

***Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!***

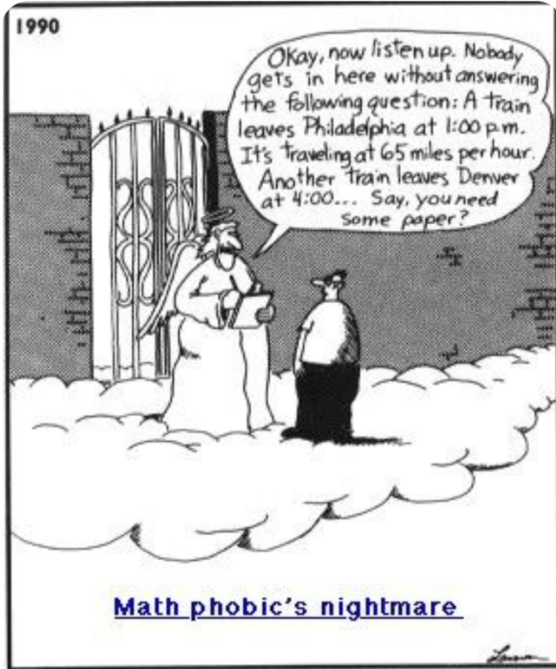
***Most people abhor taking tests...***

***And as we are in the summer why would I preach a series about “testing yourself”?***

***This series is actually about testing yourself on whether or not you are going to Heaven or Hell...***

***That should be pretty important, but I still think most people so detest taking tests that they simply avoid the question...***

***→ Pic – FarSide Cartoon***



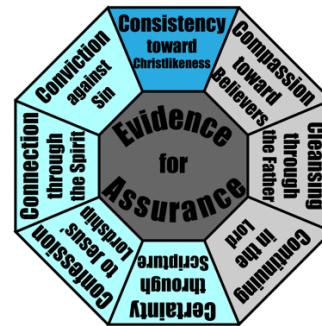
→ Pic - Evidence for Assurance - Completed



Today we are continuing with the FIFTH of these signs...

“CONSISTENCY TOWARD CHRISTLIKENESS”

→ Pic - Evidence for Assurance - Consistency



1 John 5:13 (ESV) — I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

**ONE THING**

**Consistent OBEDIENCE to GOD and the WORD is the clear EVIDENCE of a true FOLLOWER of Jesus.**

1 John 2:3–6 (ESV) — And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Four times “KNOW” is used...

1. Present Active Indicative...
2. Perfect Active Indicative...
3. Perfect Active Indicative...
4. Present Active Indicative...

Three times “KEEP” is used...

1. Present Active Subjunctive...
2. Present Active Participle...
3. Present Active Subjunctive...

In these verses John tells us not only **WHAT** consistency toward Christlikeness looks like, but **HOW** to develop this consistency in our own lives...

### **1. Our Outward ACTIVITY MEASURES our Christlike Consistency**

1 John 2:3–4 (ESV) — And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him

FOUR times “KNOW” is used...

This passage contains THREE of the times...

1. Present Active Indicative...
2. Perfect Active Indicative...
3. Perfect Active Indicative...

THREE times “KEEP” is used...

This passage contains TWO of the times...

1. Present Active Subjunctive...
2. Present Active Participle...

→ What are His commandments?

### → **Pic – God’s Standard or My Standard**

<b>God’s Standard of Good versus Evil</b>
1. You shall have no other gods
2. You shall have no idols
3. You shall not take God’s name in vain
4. Remember the Sabbath
5. Honor your father and mother
6. You shall not murder
7. You shall not commit adultery
8. You shall not steal
9. You shall not bear false witness
10. You shall not covet

<b>My Standard of Good versus Evil</b>
Genesis 3:4–5 — ...“You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”
1. I shall be my own god
2. I shall live my life the way I choose
3. I shall live by what I deem to be good

**Consistent obedience to God and the Word is the clear evidence of a true follower of Jesus.**

**1. Our Outward ACTIVITY measures our Christlike Consistency**

### **2. Our Inward AFFECTION MOTIVATES our Christlike Consistency**

1 John 2:4–5a (ESV) — Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected.

What is motivating you to live in Christlike Consistency?

➤ **REQUIREMENT – I HAVE to do it...**

➤ **RESPONSIBILITY – I NEED to do it...**

➤ **RELATIONSHIP – I WANT to do it...**

**John 14:15 (ESV) — If you love me, you will keep my commandments.**

**John 14:21 (ESV) — Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”**

**Matthew 22:37–40 (ESV) — And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”**

***Consistent obedience to God and the Word is the clear evidence of a true follower of Jesus.***

**1. Our Outward ACTIVITY measures our Christlike Consistency**

**2. Our Inward AFFECTION motivates our Christlike Consistency**

**3. Our Daily ABIDING MANUFACTURES our Christlike Consistency**

**1 John 2:5b–6 (ESV) — ... By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.**

**The “him” and “he” in this passage is referring to Jesus...**

**Let’s read it again, but replacing the pronouns with “Jesus”...**

**1 John 2:5b–6 (ESV) — ... By this we may know that we are in Jesus: whoever says he abides in Jesus ought to walk in the same way in which Jesus walked.**

**To abide in Jesus means to rely upon His power as our source of strength...**

**John 15:5 (ESV) — I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.**

**1 Corinthians 4:20 (ESV) — For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power.**

**John 15:10 (ESV) — If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.**

**Evidence for Assurance  
Consistency toward Christlikeness  
1 John 2:3-6**

Consistent \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ is the  
clear \_\_\_\_\_ of a true \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

**1. Our Outward \_\_\_\_\_ our  
Christlike Consistency**

**2. Our Inward \_\_\_\_\_ our  
Christlike Consistency**

**Motivations for Consistency**

➤ \_\_\_\_\_ – I \_\_\_\_\_ to do it...

➤ \_\_\_\_\_ – I \_\_\_\_\_ to do it...

➤ \_\_\_\_\_ – I \_\_\_\_\_ to do it...

**3. Our Daily \_\_\_\_\_ our  
Christlike Consistency**