

THAT YOU MAY KNOW – p. 1

1 John 5:1-11

Question

Do you know that you have eternal life?

Read 1 John 5:1-5

Pray

Three Tests

We know John's purpose in this letter is to expose the falsehoods of false teachers –

-And in doing this he wants to give true believers blessed assurance that they belong to Christ!

-1 John 5:13 – *“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.”*

-To expose what is false and confirm what is true...

If you are going to claim to be a Christian, then you must pass three tests –

-Test #1 – The doctrine test – What do you believe about Jesus Christ?

-Test #2 – The moral test – Do you obey the commandments of God?

-Test #3 – The love test – Do you love?

Remember this about tests –

-Tests don't make you knowledgeable or intelligent – They measure what knowledge or intelligence is already there.

-John doesn't give us these three test to make us Christians!

-He doesn't say – “If you believe in Jesus...and if you live a good life...and if you love the way you should...then you will be a Christian.”

-Instead he says, “The way to know you are a true Christian is by ‘passing’ the three tests...”

The Message

True Christians: 1) Believe that Jesus is the Son of God 2) Love God and others (especially Christians) and 3) Obey the commandments of God!

Are you a Christian? Do you know that you have eternal life?

1 – What do you believe about Jesus?

-v. 1 – *“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God...”*

-According to John's letter, to be a Christian we must believe –

-That Jesus is the Christ – 2:22, 23

-*“Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? ...Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.”*

-That Jesus, the Christ, has come in the flesh – 4:2

-*“By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.”*

-That Jesus, the Christ who has come in the flesh, is the Son of God – 5:5

-*“Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”*

-Here's why this is a matter of life and death –

-That Jesus is the Christ –

-Throughout the OT, God promised to send a Deliverer to save and redeem His people.

-He was called “Messiah” or anointed one – The Greek equivalent is “Christ”.

-The Messiah or Christ is the One that God has ordained and appointed to be the Savior and Redeemer for all who believe!

- The Christ, then, came in the flesh as the man Jesus –
 - He was real flesh and blood so that He could live and die in the place of His people.
- The Christ could exist before He became a man because He was God the Son.
 - God both offers the sacrifice...and is the sacrifice!
 - Only God could both offer and be the perfect sacrifice.
- But the false teachers taught the opposite –
 - That the Christ spirit came upon the man Jesus at his baptism.
 - That the man Jesus did many good things and taught many good things...
 - But when he was on the cross the Christ spirit left him...

2 – Do you love God and others (especially Christians)?

- I say “especially Christians” because of –
 - 2:10, 11; 3:10, 14, 15, 16, 23; 4:11, 20, 21; 5:1
- Now, no one, except God, has ever loved perfectly –
 - So as you take the love test and examine your heart, don’t look for perfect love or even examples of failure to love –
 - Instead make the issue what John makes the issue in 3:16-18
- Your love will not be **perfect** but love must be **present** – to some degree – if you are a Christian.

3 – Do you obey the commandments of God?

- v. 3 – *“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.”*
- This is stated clearly at the beginning –
 - 2:3-5 – *“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.”*
- His commandments are not burdensome because –
 - The new nature of the Spirit –
 - Ezekiel 36:26 – *“And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”*
 - The new nature of the Spirit is secured by the blood of Christ in the New Covenant of His blood.
 - The promise of Jesus
 - Matt. 11:28-30 – *“Come unto me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*
 - The pleasure of the Father
 - You delight in pleasing those you love, so doing what God pleases is our joy and delight.
 - 1 John 3:22 – *“...we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.”*
 - 2 Cor. 5:9 – *“So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.”*
- If obeying God’s commandments is a burden to you, you aren’t a Christian!

Application

I asked “Are you a Christian?” “Do you know that you have eternal life?”

- First – God wants you to know!
- And – You can know!

Repent and believe in a way that receives Jesus!