

KNOWING THAT YOU KNOW

1 John 2:3-11

November 29, 2020

True and False Assurance

One of John's motives in writing this letter is to give real Christian true assurance –

-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.”

-This is true assurance that every real Christian could and should have – This letter will confirm your conscience.

Another reason is the confront those who claim to be Christian but who aren't –

-John wants to wake anyone up who may have false assurance.

Read 1 John 2:3-11

Pray

The Imposture

Robert Crichton's book *The Great Imposture* tells the story of Frank Demara – A man still known as the world's greatest Con Artist –

In the same way, John was dealing with those who made claims that they were Christians but had no spiritual credentials or experience or evidence to back up the claims –

What John does in these verses to expose the impostures is meant to be something positive for a true believer

-It is intended to give assurance to true Christians –

-2:3 – “By this we know that we have come to know him...”

-2:5 – “...By this we know that we are in him...”

-2:10 – “Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.”

So we will look at this from the positive for the message –

HOW TO KNOW YOU KNOW GOD –

Test #1 – The Obedience Test – vs. 3-6

-Here's the flow of his argument –

1 – What connects knowing Christ to the assurance that you know Christ, is obedience to Christ.

2 – It follows then, that you can be assured of salvation by obedience to Christ.

3 – Anyone who would deny this is a liar – v. 4

-In logical order – Knowing → Obedience → Assurance

-There must be something special about knowing because it necessitates obedience – it's very dynamic!

-The equation looks like this – Knowing = Loving and Trusting → Obedience → Assurance

Test #2 – The Love Test – vs. 7-11

-You read these verses and come away with an obvious question, “How is the commandment to love both old and new?”

-v. 7 – “Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard.”

-Matt. 22:34-40; Luke 10:25-28

-But it is new – v. 8 – “At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.”

-Jesus brings a new clarity and brilliance to the commandment to love.

-John 15:13 – “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

-This light of Jesus is shining in the world and becoming brighter and brighter as His people live in His light by loving one another!

-Flow of thought –

1 – Since knowing God produces obedience to His commands, then Christians will love one another because loving one another is the most basic command of Christ.

2 – Loving one another is not only what it means to walk in the light, it is the means by which the light of Christ shines in the world today.

3 – It follows then that if someone claims to walk in the light but hates his brother is still in darkness and not a true Christian.

4 – It also follows that those who love their brothers are walking in the light and will not stumble (and in the context have assurance that they know God).

-Do you love Christians?

-If so, you pass the love text.

Test 3# - The Truth Test – vs. 18-27

Application

1 – Humbly acknowledge the work God has done and hopefully anticipate what He has promised to do –

2 – Growing in your knowledge of God’s love will help you grow in holiness (or obedience to His commands)

3 – Effective witness to the world doesn’t start with our relationship to the world but with one another –