

**1 John 4:13-21 Answers  
Confidence On Judgment Day**

**Introduction:** One of John's purposes in writing was to give his readers assurance of their salvation. John wrote:

ESV **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.

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**\*\*\*\*Who can have confidence on judgment day and not fear punishment (4:13-21)?** The one who believes in Jesus and abides in His and has love for the brethren can be confident.

**Back in 4:12, John said loving another is evidence God abides in us. What further evidence did John offer in 4:13 that God abides in us?** The proof lies with the fact that God has given us his Spirit. This is a repeat of what John wrote earlier:

ESV **1 John 3:24** . . . by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

**What is the evidence you have the Spirit? Is the Spirit's presence an intellectual fact to accept by faith or an existential feeling?** Though the answer to this is ultimately yes to both options, from the immediate context the idea seems to be the evidence of having the Spirit is believing Jesus is the Christ and manifesting love for the brethren. The contrast is between the spirit of antichrist and the Spirit of Christ.

ESV **Galatians 5:22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love . . .

— 4:14 —

**According to 4:14, what did John see with his own eye and testify to?** John saw and testified that God sent Jesus to be the Savior of the world.

**John seems to have a love/hate relationship to the world (4:14). Sometimes the world seems to be antichrist and other times Jesus came to be its Savior. Which is it?** The Greek word is *kosmos*; John used it in several senses. Sometimes John used *kosmos* negatively to refer to everything that is hostile to God, lost in sin, wholly at odds with anything divine, ruined and depraved ("all that is in the world", 1 John 2:16, BAGD, p. 446). Here John uses *kosmos* to refer to mankind in general (also in "God so loved the world", John 3:16).

— 4:15 —

**In 4:13 John said having the Spirit is evidence God abides in us. Based on 4:15, what else is an indicator that God abides in someone?** That a person confesses (and presumably truly believes) Jesus is the Son of God is an indicator God abides in him.

ESV 1 **Corinthians 12:3** . . . no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.

**What are you declaring about Jesus when you say He is the Son of God (4:15)?** Son of God is a Messianic title, paramount to saying He is the Messiah (Christ). It is also a declaration of His Deity: The Son of God is God the Son.

— 4:16 —

**What additional indicator does 4:16 offer that God abides in someone?** That a person abides in love is evidence God abides in that person.

**Evidence of Abiding (Portrait of a Christian):**

ESV 1 **John 3:24a** Whoever **keeps his commandments** abides in him, and he in them.

ESV 1 **John 3:24b** . . . by this we know that he abides in us, **by the Spirit** whom he has given us.

ESV 1 **John 4:12** . . . if we **love one another**, God abides in us . . .

ESV 1 **John 4:15** Whoever **confesses that Jesus is the Son of God**, God abides in him, and he in God.

ESV 1 **John 4:16** . . . whoever **abides in love** abides in God, and God abides in him.

— 4:17 —

**Review: Based on 4:17, who can have confidence on judgment day?** The one who believes in Jesus and abides in His and has love for the brethren can be confident.

**Assurance of Salvation:** John teaches we can be sure of our salvation by examining the fruit of our lives: *Do we believe in Jesus? Do we keep his commandments? Do we love the brethren?*

NAS 1 **John 5:13** These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.

**What did John mean by “as he is so also are we in this world” (4:17)?** Jesus loved His own in a world of hostility and so too we must love the brethren despite the world’s hatred for us.

— 4:18 —

**If we abide in God’s love, what do we not have to fear (4:18)?** We do not have to fear eternal punishment.

**Scripture is clear that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Ps 111:10), yet 4:18 states we should have no fear. How are these two truths compatible?** We should fear God in the sense of respecting Him as our all powerful Creator, Lord of heaven and earth. However, in Christ we need no dread punishment for our sins. When God the Father looks at us He sees the righteousness of Christ.

— 4:19 —

**In the predestination debate, some think God chose them for salvation based on the fact God foreknew they would one day chose Him. The trigger point is foreseen faith. Others say it is the other way around, that the chosen believe precisely because God chose them to believe, otherwise they would never have chosen God. According to 4:19, who made the first move, God or man? God loved first. We love Him because He first loved us.**

ESV **John 15:16** You did not choose me, but I chose you . . .

**In 4:19, what is cause and what is effect? Because God first loved us, we as a result love God (effect).**

ESV **John 6:37** All that the Father gives me will come to me . . .

ESV **John 6:44** No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.

ESV **John 6:65** . . . no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.

— 4:20 —

**According to 4:20, how can you tell when someone is lying who says he loves God?** It is very simple: anyone who does not love the brethren does not love God either.

**John Stott:** To claim to be a Christian without living a life of love “is like claiming to be intimate with a foreigner whose language we cannot speak, or to have been born of parents whom we do not in any way resemble” (Coleman & Peace, p. 46). Love is God’s language and the mark of His parentage.

— 4:21 —

**What commandment do we have in 4:21?** Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

**So What?**

**Which people can have confidence rather than fear on judgment day?** Those who **1)** believe in Jesus as the Son of God and **2)** love the brethren can have confidence, 4:15-16. John used the word love 43 times in his letter; it is an important aspect of true Christianity (Coleman & Peace, p. 46).

\*\*\*\* = ask this question before reading the text aloud. Doing so will cause focus.

- These lessons are designed for a 45 minute session and are based on the text of the ESV.
- You can hear this lesson being taught at [www.SermonAudio.Com/NTRF](http://www.SermonAudio.Com/NTRF).

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