

We Know that We are from God
1 John 5:16-21

Introduction: Contrasting identities lead to conflict.

1. John's dichotomy between Christians and the world is presented one last time.
 - a. This dichotomy shapes the message of the letter.
 - b. V16-19, chronologically

16-17	Sin not leading to death	Sin leading to death
18a	Does not sin	Sins
18b	Protected from the evil one	Not protected
19	From God	Under the power of evil

- c. This dichotomy shapes our understanding of ourselves and the world today.
2. Questions from the passage:
 - a. What is the "sin that leads to death?" (v16-17)
 - b. How should we pray for those in sin? (v16-17)
 - c. Are Christians expected to be sinless? (v18)
 - d. If God is sovereign, why does the world lie in the evil one's power? (v19)
3. Four "we know" statements to lead us to assurance
 - a. "*We know* that everyone who has been born of God does not keep in sinning." (18a)
 - b. "*We know* that we are from God" (19a)
 - c. "*We know* that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding" (20a)
 - d. "so that *we may know* him who is true" (20b)
4. When you are struggling with assurance, remember the truth about who you are in Christ.
 - a. The world is the world because it's the world!
 - b. You are in Christ, the true God and eternal life! (20c)
 - c. Continue fighting sin, and stay clear from idols while still in this evil world (21)
 - d. Pray for one another, that we all may be found in Christ.