



“Our Confidence”

The Message
I John 3:19-24

Our confidence is affected by our:

I. Conscience - “have we confidence toward God ” (vs. 19-21)

We calibrate it through:

A. Experience - “shall assure our hearts before Him ”

B. Examination - “if our heart condemns us, God is greater”

C. Excellence - “if our heart condemns us not”

II. Communion – “we receive of Him ” (v. 22)

We connect when we:

A. Pray - “whatsoever we ask”

B. Practice - “we keep His commandments”

C. Please - “do those things that are pleasing to Him”

III. Conduct - “And this is His commandment” (vs. 23-24)

We comply as we :

A. Confess – “believe on the name of His Son, Jesus”

B. Care – “we should...love one another”

C. Continue – “he that ...dwelleth in Him”

Sentence Sermon:

“Our confidence is fortified by the Holy Spirit when we love and obey.”

Additional Verses

- ***Psalm 37:4***
- ***John 18:37***
- ***Matthew 6:33***
- ***Mark 12:28-31***
- ***Matthew 22:34-40***
- ***John 13:34-35***
- ***I Corinthians 4:1-5***
- ***II Corinthians 5:6-7***
- ***II Corinthians 10:1-8***
- ***Hebrews 4:16***
- ***John 15:12***
- ***Psalm 103:10-14***
- ***John 8:29***
- ***Hebrews 13:21***
- ***Romans 14:22-23***
- ***I Peter 4:8***
- ***Proverbs 14:26***

Questions to Ponder:

1. What are the key words in this passage?
2. What does the repetition of “Hereby we know” imply?
3. What do you think is the purpose of this passage?
4. What has God done to reassure us of His presence?
5. What are some things that affect the accuracy of our conscience?
6. What can believers do to maintain a health conscience?
7. When does our confidence toward God make a difference?
8. Why does John tell believers that they should believe on Jesus?
9. Can you name the works of the Holy Spirit? Your favorite?

INTRO:

Important repeated words and concepts

v. 19.

- And hereby = when there is a need among believers and believers step up and meet that need in love
- We know that = (future middle indicative) we will know or will come to know
- That we are of the truth = “ek” we are born out from the truth..it is the source and origin of our belief
 - Contrast this to verse 12 about Cain being of that wicked one
 - Compare this to Jesus in John 18:37 saying that if we are “of the truth” we listen to Him
- And shall assure = to persuade
- our hearts = our conscience
 - The heart is to the body as
 - The conscience is to the spirit
- Before Him = before God...in the presence of God, under His observation, including when we come before him in prayer

V. 20

- For if = 3rd class conditional ...very likely
- Our heart condemns us = “kataginosko” to know something against someone....Our heart is not infallible....Sometimes to lenient....in this passage, sometimes to harsh...we must bring every thought captive to the Word of God – II Cor. 10:1-8
 - Our conscience is like a referee
 - Makes a lot of good calls, but can miss some big ones.
 - Our conscience can be:
 - Seared
 - Silenced
 - Sensitized
- God is greater than our heart = God knows all things ...our motives...our fears...our values....He will be more merciful ...REMEMBER PETER’s Denials – John 18:25-27 / John 21:15-17
- And knows all things = Present tense – God’s knowledge is complete, continual, and contextual.....There seems to be linkage between God’s omniscience and His capacity for love, sympathy, and mercy.
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v. 21.

- Beloved = objects of God's love
- If our heart = 3rd class conditional...very likely
- Condemns us not = Is not using something it knows against us
- Then have we confidence = openness, assurance, or boldness - (Hebrews 4:16 – boldly before the throne)
 - fearlessness
- Toward God = “pros ton theon” face to face with GodJohn 1:1 “the Word ***was with God***”

v. 22

- And whatsoever we ask = nothing is excluded but there is a context where the request is tempered by :
 - Our conscience
 - Our complete Fellowship with God
 - Our confidence towards God....It is most likely what is being alluded to...DeVille paraphrase:
“If any man lack confidence, let him ask of God who giveth to all men who live in fellowship with Him”
- We receive of Him = “lambanomen” to take or receive...present active indicative.... we continue to enjoy answered prayer
- 1. Because we keep His commandments = to guard, to obey
- 2. And do the things that = to practice regularly

- Are pleasing in His sight = to please ...in God's eyes.....cp. John 8:29 – Jesus' example ...Hebrews 13:21 --- pleasing in the God's sight.
 - A noble Jewish saying, ***“Do God's will as if it were yours, that He may do thy will as if it were His.”***
 - D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones observed, “As we grow to do what pleases Him, we will see more and more of our prayers answered.”

v.23.

- And this is His commandment = what is His commandment? ... Matthew 17:5 – Believe Jesus & Matthew 22:38-39
- That we should believe = during difficult times & as a continuous tenor of our lives
- On the name of His Son, Jesus Christ = Believe on all that He is ...a way of saying sound doctrine concerning the person of Jesus...what is considered a Compressed Creed
- And love one another = most often mentioned in the 60+ “one anothers”
- As He gave us commandment = **John 15:12** – love one another

v. 24

- And he that keepeth His commandments = to observe, to hold, to obey
- Dwelleth in Him = remains, continues – Us with God
- And He in him = God in us
- And hereby =
- We know that = the way we become intimately aware of the fact that
- He abideth in us = God is continuing to work in us and will complete His work
- By the Spirit = ek ..out from the Spirit....the one who comforts, convicts, leads, guides, and yes, seals us till redemption
- Which He hath given us = whom He has given us

*** We conclude that the abiding relationship is not the regeneration experience. Rather, it refers to the degree of intimacy and fellowship with the Lord possible for those who continue to obey His commands.*

Friends – John 15:14 vs. I John 5:10-11 Salvation