

1 John 5:1-12

Verse 1 of this chapter lays out the 3 main themes of this text

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.

1. Believes v1a
2. Born of God v1b
3. Loves v1c

He takes this list (believes, born of God, and loves) and deals with each on in the remainder of the text beginning with love and working his way to believes.

I. Loves v2-3

John, gave quite a discourse on love in the latter portion of chapter 3 and chapter 4. Now he continues that theme by reminding his readers that love is exercised both horizontally and vertically.

A. Horizontally

1. John has been saying over and over again that we know we love God because we love our brethren.
2. Now he is saying we know that we love our brethren because we love God! This feels like some sort of circular reasoning.
3. Since God defines love, if we are to rightly love others, we must begin with God, who He is, and what He expects.
 - a. Simply put, you can't just "do good" for people according to your terms and call that love.
 - b. You can't define love how you want to define love...demonstrate love how you decide to demonstrate love and get affirmation from God that you are biblically, and truly, loving your neighbor.
4. You can't distinguish "love in action" from love in truth (the gospel).
5. 1 John 3:18 *Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.*
6. Matthew 25 without the gospel is not love!
 - a. It would be like me having the cure for cancer, and going to cancer patients and giving them chemotherapy and radiation while neglecting to give them the cure!
 - b. We know that we are loving the children of God when we love in deed and in truth...when we love God.

B. Vertically

1. Loving God means having a heart that does not find his commandments burdensome.
2. They are a delight!
3. Psalm 40:8 *I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart.*
4. The law isn't in stone hanging over our head any longer.
5. The law is written on our hearts, rising up and out in love for God and for others.
6. This is not burdensome. It is joy!
7. Psalm 19:24 *Your testimonies also are my delight*

II. Born again v4

1. John 3:1-8
2. Being born again..born from above...by faith

III. Believes v5-12

V5-8

John makes clear that the one who overcomes the world is the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God!

1. John saw him, heard him, touched him, and knew him..and said this is he one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ
2. He came by water and blood...John saw this blood and water flow!
3. How do you ever get over that?

The Water

1. The water symbolizes purification.
2. You recognize the necessity of being made holy so you are grateful for the water!
3. But you realize really quickly that, though you might make holiness your goal, you are unable to succeed...you still have past sin!

The Blood

1. The blood symbolizes atonement.
2. The blood of Jesus meets your need.
3. It cancels your guilt; it sets you free from condemnation; it seals your peace.
4. On the other side of the coin...the blood alone may cause us to treat the gospel as if it were intended simply to pacify the troubled conscience and set sinful men at their ease.
5. So we need the water...the purification...a practically holy life

The Spirit

1. But what about the blood and the water without the spirit?
2. Forgiveness and new life may make sense, but you have difficulty about his really saving you.
3. Could this really apply to me? Where is your faith? The Spirit!
4. We need the work of the Spirit to convict us of our sin...and then to apply the work of the water and the blood to our lives and give us hope and joy and peace.

There are three that testify! The water, the blood, and the spirit and they agree!

V9-10

1. If there was ever a testimony that we should listen to, it is God's!
2. Luke 16:19-31

Conclusion v11-12

1. God has given us eternal life in Jesus v11
2. Do you have Him? v12

Discussion Questions

1. Take some time to review the sermon notes from Sunday.
2. Was there anything from this sermon that was difficult to understand or that didn't make sense to you? Discuss it with the group to try and get a better understanding.
3. What do we learn about God the Father...God the Son....and/or God the Holy Spirit from the main Scripture text that was used?
4. What do we learn about man from the main text?
5. Are there any commands to obey? Promises to believe? Sins to avoid in the main Scripture text?
6. What do you believe was the most impactful part of the sermon Sunday? Discuss.
7. How do you plan to apply some portion of what you learned to your life? For example, "In response to this sermon, I will _____"