

1 John 5:13

John bookends his letter with 2 primary reasons for writing.

1. 1 John 1:4 *“These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.”*
2. 1 John 5:13: *“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.”*
3. John wrote, so that we might have joy, and so that we may know that we have eternal life.
4. That is why we have titled our study of 1 John, “Joyful Assurance.”

John has written his letter to those who profess to believe in the name of the Son of God.

1. Why did he write these things to these professing believers?
2. He wrote so that they may come to know...or not know...that they have eternal life.
3. In a sense, he wrote this letter so that believers could examine themselves to see whether or not they truly have eternal life.
4. 2 Corinthians 13:5 *“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you--unless indeed you fail the test?”*

Let us take some time to consider John’s teachings in 1 John and where we stand with God. Let us ask ourselves some questions to help. We are going to have to move very, very fast through these! Hang on tight.

I. Am I living a life that is characterized by confessing Christ and embracing the Gospel?

1 John 2:23-24 *Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also. 24 As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.*

Romans 10:9-13

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

1 John 5:1 *Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.*

Are you living a life that is characterized by confessing Christ and embracing His Gospel?

1. This is a vital part of having joyful assurance, but this is not the only characteristic of a child of God!
2. We often treat it like it is, but there is much more to the Christian life, than our confession alone.
3. This may be a starting point, but if it is a true, biblical confession, it will be affirmed by our lives, which leads to a second question we must ask ourselves.

II. Am I living a life characterized by righteousness?

1 John 1:6-7 *If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

1 John 2:3-6 *By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we*

know that we are in Him: **6** the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

Matthew 21:28-31

Matt 7:21 Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

1 John 2:29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

1 John 3:7-10 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; **8** the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. **9** No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. **10** By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

1. Notice that John puts the emphasis in these verses on practice.
2. What are we characterized by? Are we characterized by righteousness or sin?
3. This is not saying that true believers never sin! He already warned us about that!
4. 1 John 1:8-9 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 3:24 The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

1. Simply put, if we have eternal life we will know it by our practice, by our lifestyle, and by our righteousness.
2. This is not unique to John.
3. 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."
4. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
5. Are you living a life characterized by righteousness?

III. Am I living a life characterized by love?

1 John 2:9-11 The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. **10** The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. **11** But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

1 John 3:10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

1 John 3:14-19 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. **15** Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. **16** We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. **17** But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? **18** Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. **19** We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him

1 John 4:7-8 *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

1 John 4:20-21 *If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.*

IV. Am I living a life of increased loyalty to God and increased separation from the world?

1 John 2:15-17 *Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.*

1. John makes it extremely clear that anyone who loves the world does not have the love of the Father in him.
2. If we are people who find our hearts inclined towards the world or the things found in the world then we need to do a careful self examination.
3. As children of God who will live forever, we should not be characterized by getting caught up in, or preoccupied with the world and the things that the world finds its joy in.

1 John 5:4 *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.*

1. What do your priorities say about you? Are you on a worldly trajectory or a godly one?
2. When a third party looks at you do they see someone born of God overcoming the world by faith, or one who is joining with the rest of the world in the things you do, listen to, watch, spend your money on, and think?
3. Are you living a life of increased loyalty to God and increased separation from the world?
4. Matt 6:24 *"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.*

V. Am I living a life of steadfastness, perseverance, and endurance?

1 John 2:19 *They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.*

1. The antichrists are characterized by leaving the faith.
2. True believers do not walk away from the faith.
3. They are characterized by steadfastness, perseverance, and endurance.
4. Luke 9:62 *"No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*
5. Matthew 24:13 *"the one who endures to the end will be saved"*

Matthew 13:18-23

1 John 2:24 *As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.*

VI. Does the Spirit of God reside in us? Do we have the Son?

1 John 3:24 *The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.*

1 John 4:13 *By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.*

1 John 5:12 *He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.*

1. If we have the Son, we have life.
2. If we know Christ we have the Spirit of God dwelling within us, living in us, and through us.
3. This is not referring to a peaceful easy feeling.
4. When the Holy Spirit is dwelling in us, it means that He is present, convicting us, disciplining us, leading us, guiding us, directing us, and assuring us.

Is the Holy Spirit in you?

VII. Do we Listen to the Word of God?

1 John 4:6 *We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.*

We need to ask ourselves, “**Are we listening to the Scriptures?**”

1. Am I living a life that is characterized by confessing Christ and embracing the Gospel?
2. Am I living a life characterized by righteousness?
3. Am I living a life characterized by love?
4. Am I living a life of increased loyalty to God and increased separation from the world?
5. Am I living a life of steadfastness, perseverance, and endurance?
6. Does the Spirit of God reside in us? Do we have the Son?

Don't ask what your heart says, what your denomination says, what your tradition says, what your parents say, or your pastor or your Sunday school teacher say about you.

1. What does the Word of God say about you?
2. It is either true and accurate and right or your feelings, your traditions are right...but it can't be both.
3. Are you going to listen to the word and obey? Come to Jesus today!

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 _____"