

Five Things We Can Know

Sermon 15 in the 1 John Series

1 John 5:13-21

I. We Can Know We Have Eternal Life 5:13

The best commentary on v. 13 are verses 10-12 – making v. 13 the concluding statement.

John 14:6 – “I am the way, the truth and the life – no man comes to the father except by me.”

II. We Can Know that He Hears our Prayers v. 14-15

Two qualifications to knowing He hears our prayers.

1. Confidence and boldness
Ephesians 3:12 -- in whom we have **boldness** and access with confidence through faith in Him. **Heb. 4:14-16**
2. Praying according to His will.

III. What We Know about the Sin unto Death 5:16-18

A. Verses 16-17

We are talking about the sin leading to death – there are at least 3 NT examples.

1. Ananias and Sapphira – Acts 5:1-11
2. Misusing the Lord’s Supper -- 1 Cor. 11:17-32
3. The notorious sinner in 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

So what do we say about the sin leading to death? 2 Applications:

1. It can come in the context of Church Discipline
2. In John’s context it probably refers to those who once professed to believe the truth -- but had left the Christian community and were now embroiled in heresy (**2:19**).

Note: John says, “I do not say”

He does say it is wrong to pray for these people.

But your prayers will not be effective – if God has determined the sin is to death.

B. Verse 18

Explaining a textual difficulty

The difficulty is in the pronoun: “himself” (*eautov*) or “him” (*autov*)

In other words – does he keep himself (Christian responsibility and self-discipline is in view) or is He kept (guarded, protected) by Christ?

v. 18 -- “We know that **everyone who has been born of God** does not keep on sinning, **but he who was born of God** protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. (ESV)

The one who has been born of God (a Christian) will not continue in unrepentant sin – because **THE ONE BORN OF GOD** – The Lord Jesus Christ Himself -- protects him – guards him -- and the Evil One cannot “touch him”.

1 John 4:4; 3:19-20

IV. What We Know of God and the World v. 19

A. We are of God

B. The world is of the Devil

There is a real division – and it is not political -- but the real division is between the children of God and those of the world – whose father is The Devil.

This isn't new. It is an age old conflict. See John chapter 8

Thanks be to God – who adopts as His children those who once were children of the Devil – by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ.

V. We Know the Son of God Has Come v. 20

The Son of God has come and given us an understanding.

So we can know Him (God) who is True.

We are in Him (Jesus) who is true.

Because we know the truth of the Trinity – we can say the Father is the True God.

And because we know the truth of the Trinity -- we can say Jesus is the True God

But we cannot say is Jesus is the Father.

Final Exhortation: v. 21

If there is a true God – and there is – then there are false gods.

ESV Study Bible, “...keep yourself from trusting, obeying, revering, and following – that is, in effect, worshipping – anyone or anything other than God himself and His Son Jesus Christ.”