

Assurance: By This We Know

1 John 3:11-24

Theme: Assurance for the true believer that they have passed out of spiritual death into eternal life (v.14).

By this we know what Love is (vv.11-18)

- 1) A Bad Example: The Hatred of Cain (vv.12-15)
 - A) Characteristics of Hate
 - Comes from the _____
 - Shown in _____
 - Evidence of _____
 - B) Cain is the _____ of the world
- 2) A Good Example: The Love of Christ (vv.16-18)
 - A) Jesus is the _____ for his Church
 - B) Characteristics of Love
 - Originates in _____
 - Shown in _____ - _____
 - Evidence of _____

By this we shall know that we're of the truth (vv.19-22)

- 1) How to reassure a condemning heart (v.20)
 - A) God is _____; he is all powerful
 - B) God is _____; he is all knowing
- 2) Blessings of an uncondemning heart (vv.21-22)
 - A) _____ before God
 - B) Prayers _____

By this we know God abides in us (vv.23-24)

- 1) The Abiding Spirit
 - A) _____ us to believe Jesus is the Christ
 - B) _____ us to love one another

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Small Group Questions

1. Why did Cain kill Abel? In light of Cain being a prototype of this world, how can we expect the world to treat us as Christians?
2. The word “love” can be defined in many different ways. John didn’t necessarily define love, but he did point to the supreme example of it. How is this beneficial? How can we define love after looking at the example he provides in verses 16-18?
3. Why do you think John thought it was necessary to write verse 17-18? Are there ways in which you can remember practically and sacrificially showing love to someone else? Are there any specific areas or people in which God has laid on your heart recently in which you didn’t (or have not yet) provided for?
4. In verse 20, John seems to have the understanding that doubting one’s faith is an experience most, if not all Christians, will face. What are some ways in which our hearts condemn us? What are ways we combat this?
5. How and why can we as Christians be confident in God’s presence? Why is it so important that we have confidence and an uncondemning heart when approaching God?
6. What can we pray about as believers? What safe guards us from becoming self-centred in our prayers? Will God really grant us anything we ask when we pray?
7. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives, specifically in relation to showing Christ-like love?

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