

Questions for God

Part 2 – How do I know that I'm really Saved?

1 John 2.1-17

Insufficient Sources

- Past Experiences – “I walked an aisle, prayed a prayer, signed a card”
 - Some cannot remember the time, date, and place or have multiple moments they remember
- Family Connection – “I was raised in a Christian home”
 - What happens when your dad the deacon walks out?
- Religious Rite – “I was baptized (as a baby)” “I went to church”
 - Jesus: “Lord, Lord! Didn't we...” (Matthew 7)
- These aren't bad just *insufficient*

Questions to Ask

1. Do you trust Jesus *alone* as your Savior? (v.1-2)

- Deal with sin by redefining sin
- Deal with sin by balancing the scales
 - Galatians 2.16 – no works of the law justify us before God
 - (both dishonor God and put trust in self instead of the Savior)
- Deal with sin by trusting Jesus
 - He's the Advocate (v.1) – our defense lawyer not advocating our innocence but our forgiveness
 - He's the Propitiation (v.2) – paid our debt and purchased God's favor, the basis of our forgiveness
 - There is no other hope for right relationship with God or assurance of salvation than Jesus alone

2. Is my life marked by obedience to Jesus the King? (v.3-6)

- Immediate response: “But nobody is perfect”
 - When we sin, do we obey? Don't deny but confess. Don't live in it but lean away from it (1.6-10)
 - We are not obeying Him to earn our way into relationship with Him. We are in a relationship with Him and it has a shaping force of obedience to Him (because He's good, faithful, loving, merciful, right, true, and wise)
- SUN / ORBIT
- Mature love can be emotional or gritty, but it's always committed (doesn't lessen emotional aspect or soften the gritty times, provides texture and perspective)

3. Do you love others? (v.7-11)

- Especially (not exclusively) those in the church family
- Old commandment – carried from OT to NT and the first lesson of Christianity, we relate to one another like Jesus did to us
- New commandment – like the day dawning, the work of Jesus begins to permeate us (sacrifice, others' centered) and reach others
 - Q: do you want God's best for another or just want them to agree with you? Do you want God's best for another so badly that you will sacrifice for that good to come into their lives?

4. What is the trajectory of your spiritual journey? (v.12-14)

- Do you have a sense that you are growing?
 - Children – sins are forgiven and know the Father
 - Young men – overcome the Evil One and Word abides in them
 - Fathers – know God (have spiritually reproduced themselves)
- If you don't know or can't tell, who do you have in your life that you can ask?

5. What love is the resident of your heart? (v.15-17)

- Worldliness
 - Looks like lust, covetousness, pride
 - Outworkings objectify people and magnify outcomes over both means and people
- Godliness
 - Opposites: pleasure comes in joy of another, open-handedness to life, humility
 - All the sinful things are not from Him, so don't love them!
 - They are passing away, so don't love them!
- One will dislodge the other (Matthew 6.24) - CLOVER
 - Experience the love God has for you (3.1, 4.19)
 - OIL AND WATER – they never really mix, will ultimately separate, and one will dominate the other

Security of solid relationship is foundation for everything else to be done / experienced

Questions for Discussion

1. What do you / can you remember about becoming a Christian? What does it tell you about the importance of sharing the Gospel with those around you? When you tell your story of Jesus' work in your life, do you reference any of the signposts / sources that we mentioned in the beginning of the sermon? How important a role did they play in your becoming a follower of Jesus? How might they be insufficient for your *assurance* of salvation?
2. In the sermon, we argued that the biblical rationale for assurance is not past experiences but present expressions. Reread 1 John 5.13. John wants followers of Jesus to *know* that they have eternal life. But so many struggle (today, and in history) with their assurance of salvation. Why do you think that is? Why do you think you have struggled (assuming you have)?
3. Though John writes so that we won't sin, when we do we have an Advocate (2.1). What does "trusting Jesus alone to be my Savior" look like when we sin? Read 1 John 1.6-10 to get the context of 2.1-2.
4. What kind of obedience (2.3-6) provides assurance of salvation? How does John talk about obedience that promotes assurance? Read John 14.15 and 14.21. From the mouth of Jesus, what kind of obedience gives rise to assurance?
5. In the sermon, we stated that the Jesus kind of love that we have for others is a basic building block of Christianity. Read 1 John 4.20-21. Who in your life are you working hardest to "want God's best" for them and sacrificing to see that good come to reality in their lives? What prayer do you need to love them well?
6. When it comes to both your trajectory and the kind of love in your heart, how would you describe it to someone very close to you? What do you think that person would say back to you to affirm or correct that perception?