

“THAT YOU MAY KNOW”

1 John 5

Well, it's been a number of weeks since we were in 1 John. We had Dr. Lynn Wilder present her testimony about coming out of Mormonism, then the next week (April 17) Tot and I presented the Passover Seder meal, and last week my voice was not quiet recovered and we had Pastor Roger Thompson come and share with us. So, it was actually just about a month ago when we finished chapter 4 of 1 John and here we are tonight with next and final chapter, chapter 5.

Before we get into chapter 5 and finish up this Epistle, I wanted to remind you of some of the things we spoke about when we first started it:

1. I had also shared with you that John was writing or arguing against the prevalent teaching of the groups known as the Docetists, the Gnostics and the Antinominalist:
 - a. The Docetists taught that Jesus was actually spirit only, not in human form at all, but only a spirit creature
 - b. The Gnostic believed and taught that Jesus was either
 - i. He was fully human and the Christ conscience came upon Him at baptism and left at the crucifixion
 - ii. They also taught that only certain people were granted the REAL truth. It was not available for all men to know, only the enlightened few
 - c. The antinominalist were a bit of a different group
 - i. Their name speaks of their issues
 1. Anti = Against
 2. Nomos = the Greek word for Law
 - ii. They went way too far from being under the bondage of the Law. They felt the Law was no longer necessary. As a matter of fact they felt that the spirit and the body were completely separate and thus if the body sinned, it really didn't affect the spirit

John was fighting against all of these false teachers who had worked their way into the Church.

2. And I shared with you that there were at least 4 specific reasons John says he was writing the letter
 - a. 1Jo 1:4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.
 - b. 1Jo 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.
 - c. 1Jo 2:26 These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you.
 - d. 1Jo 5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know that you have eternal life**, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

This whole idea of assurance of our salvation is was and still is a real battle for many in the Church even today. We will look at that more tonight.

3. And thirdly, and along that same line, I shared with you that throughout the letter John uses three tests to help us to see rather or not we are in truly the faith, rather we are truly Christian or simply playing the game:
 - a. **The Social Test** – it matter how you treat your Brothers and Sister in Christ
 - b. **The Doctrinal Test** – it matter what you Believe about Christ
 - c. **The Moral Test** – it matters how are you living your current life in Christ

As a matter of fact, as we get into chapter 5, we really need to back up a couple of verses to include them in the thought or idea of what John is writing at the beginning of chapter 5. Remember the chapters and verses are not inspired, they are only there to assist us in finding particular passages. So if we pull chapter 4:20-21 into the beginning of chapter 5 we find this arrangement –

4:20-21 – another part of the Social Test (how we treat other Believers)

5:1 and 5 – are another portion of the Doctrinal Test (it matters what we believe)

5:2-4 – another section of the Moral Test (it matters how we live)

Going back not to 4:20-21 John returns to a theme he has used all throughout this short letter – it part of the **Social Test**.

1 John 4

²⁰ *If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?* ²¹ *And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.*

It makes me wonder about how many schisms and divisions were in the early Church?

How much pride and arrogance had become a part of those who had been bought by the precious blood of the Lamb?

How did they so quickly get to a point of hating or despising their brothers and sisters in Christ?

Did they feel they were better than another, more “worthy” of His salvation? Jesus left His Throne Room of Glory, to come and live a life with no possessions, no earthly power, and no worldly kingdom.

Had they some of these Christians been mistreated by others within the Church? So Christ was rejected by His own family and executed by His own countrymen. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him, the very ones He came to save, condemned Him to die, yet He prayed on the Cross, *“Father forgive them...”*

Did they really feel that the Body of Christ could be divided and it not impact the message of the Gospel and their testimony in the world? Particularly when Jesus Himself had declared, *“They will know you are my disciples by your love one for another...”*

John wanted the Church to fully and completely know, to be without excuse, that we are to love one another, even as Christ loved each of us... knowing full well who we are, who we were, where we had been, and what we would yet do. If Christ being so intimately aware of our failures was still willing to give His life for our salvation, is it too much for Him to ask us to live our lives in humility and forgiveness?

If we are going to say we are lovers of God and His true Children, then we need to understand that the Paternal bond we have with each other through the Blood of Christ should be sufficient to cause us to work tirelessly at having a true, sacrificial love for one another, with forgiveness and acceptance.

Now moving into chapter 5 we see a small bit of the **Doctrinal Test** laid out before us.

1 John 5

¹ Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.

There must first and foremost be a correct understanding of who Jesus Christ is. If we don't get that right, then our entire Doctrinal structure collapses. The very basis of our faith is built on the fullness of the Doctrine of Christ.

He is 100% man, thus He was acquainted with our griefs (Isaiah 53), He was tempted in all things even as we are, yet He was without sin (Hebrews 4:15), His precious blood was spilt as the completeness of the sacrifice (Hebrews 10:10), only as a human could He fulfill the role as the Second Adam (Romans 5), and on and on we go.

Yet, He is full 100% God in human flesh (John 1:14), God with us, Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14, Mat 1:23), He is the Almighty God, and the Everlasting Father (Isaiah 9), and on and on we go.

He is the only sacrifice and mediator for man (Acts 4:12, 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 9:15; 12:24), no one can come to the Father except through Him (John 14:6). All roads do lead to God but it is a very narrow one that leads to salvation. The rest lead to judgment. It matters what you believe.

You cannot fail the Doctrinal Test and simply say that at least *you were sincere*. You will be sincerely wrong for all eternity.

Now we move to the **Moral Test**, it matter how you and I live. Not because we gain our salvation by living our lives in obedience, but because if we truly are saved, we will live our lives in obedience.

² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.

³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. ⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

No, it's not by our works. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit living in us and through obedience to that Spirit that we show the difference in our lives.

What makes a butterfly so light and delicate?

What is it that gives her the beautiful gracefulness and exploding colors?

Was it because the fuzzy little caterpillar was determined to find some delicate wings and glue them on and then through great effort learn how to fly?

No. A metamorphose had to take place. The old things were passed away and all things became new. She became a "new creature". No longer a caterpillar and never able to go back to being a caterpillar. She will give birth to others who will be caterpillars until they too are metamorphosed. But she herself had to be changed by the Hand of God.

We live our lives to the Glory of God because God's glory now resides within us. When we purposefully choose to die to self, then the Spirit of God takes over in our lives. Not a work of flesh, but a work of His Spirit, because we have become Children of God, by the Grace of God, through faith in the Son of God.

⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

We can't do that on our own folks, many of us have the scars to prove it don't we?

Let's move on as John once again affirms the **Doctrine of Christ**.

⁶ This is He who came by water and blood--Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. ⁷ For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

⁸ And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one. ⁹ If we receive the witness of men,

the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son.

Okay, first of all let me address the elephant in the room. Some of your Bibles read differently than what I just read. Some of your Bibles actually have either removed verse 7 as I have read it or italicized it (⁷ *For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one*). Some of your Bibles have it without making any mention of any conflict with the verse. But let me warn you, if you feel you can take verse 7 and run off to all your JW or LDS friend and prove the Trinity, you will be sadly mistaken. Because it is most likely a later addition to the text.

The best of scholarship and Biblical historians believe that it was added later during a time that the original Greek text was translated into Latin. It is called the Johannine Comma, and to quote one of the commentators –

It should be noted that not only does the manuscript evidence strongly favor the omission of this passage, but the same is true concerning the testimony of the early church. Not one Greek or Latin Church Father ever quotes this passage in the first four and a half centuries. This is especially revealing in light of the many controversies revolving around the Trinity (especially Sabellianism and Arianism). If the Johannine Comma was a part of the original text, then what would be a better passage to quote in order to prove the Trinity?¹

But the three that do bear witness are the Spirit, the water, and the blood. Everything from the testimony of God the Father at His baptism and later in His ministry, “*This is my Beloved Son...*”, the actual anointing of the Holy Spirit at His Baptism, His Baptism which in essence was His anointing for ministry, and finally by the shedding of His blood as the sacrifice for the sin of man, all testify and bear witness to the Truth of Christ.

¹⁰ *He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.* ¹¹ *And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.* ¹² *He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

¹ Daniel L. Akin, [1, 2, 3 John](#), vol. 38, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2001), 198–199.

It is only through belief and faith in Jesus Christ that we can ever hope to have salvation. To believe that there is another way, that God offers a variety of plans for those who are ill-informed or refuse to accept Christ, John say you are calling God a liar, because His word declares this truth over and over, without compromise, without excuse, “There is only one way, and that is through faith in Christ.”

Once we come to that reality and acceptance and commitment, John wants us to know that we can then fully and completely depend upon God to fulfill the promise of salvation. And in this come not only great assurance, but also great boldness to stand against the enemy and stand strong in faith. John writes –

¹³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

This I believe is the epitome of John’s message, validation and confirmation of the reality of our faith.

Have we passed the Doctrinal Test, do we rightly believe who Jesus is?

Have we seen the ongoing work of the spirit of God in our lives as we live out our lives, working through the Morality Test? Are we living like Children of the King or like Children of the Devil?

Is there a progress in our love and acceptance of Brothers and Sisters in the faith, even if their worship is different than ours..., even if their Church Administration is different than ours..., even if they baptize differently than we do? If they preach Christ crucified and salvation is found through nothing less than and nothing added to faith in the completed work of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary for the sin of the world, I need to see them as a Brother or Sister in Christ – and demonstrate that relationship by love for one another.

¹⁴ Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

If I have full confidence that I am a Child of God, I can then have confidence to call out to my Father in heaven and ask anything **according to His will**. Don't forget that portion. It's not ask "*Him for anything I want.*"

Although I believe it was Augustine that made to mind boggling statement –

"Love the Lord you God with all you heart, with all your soul and with all your strength... then go and do whatever you want."

¹⁶ If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. ¹⁷ All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.

1. Some great and heinous sin, not covered by the Blood of Christ... no.
2. The sin of rejection and refusal of the wooing of the Spirit of God, blaspheme of the Holy Spirit, a hardening of the heart beyond repentance... maybe
3. The sins of the unsaved, versus the sins of the saved... possible.

¹⁸ We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. ¹⁹ We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. ²⁰ And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. ²¹ Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

"Does not sin" deals with the ending of habitual, ongoing, unrepentant, without sorrow or grief sinful lifestyle.

The Child of God has the Holy Spirit abiding within him, the Spirit is grieved and the true Child of God will do all that he can to break the bondage and walk in obedience.