

Lessons From I John

Authentic Christianity

(I Jn 5:1-5)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of "Lessons From I John."
 - a. The book of John was written that one might "have" eternal life.
 - i. **Jn 20:30-31** "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."¹
 - b. The book of I John was written that one might "know" they have eternal life.
 - i. **I Jn 5:13** "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life."
3. Throughout I John, John has written about the things needed to prove that one is truly a child of God, one being in fellowship with God.
 - a. In our text today we see that John writes out three "tests" to see if you are an "Authentic Christian."

I. The Test Of Belief

- A. Specifically the belief in Jesus
 1. As the Christ
 - i. **I Jn 5:1a** "Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God..."
 2. As the Son of God
 - i. **I Jn 5:5b** "...the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"
 3. As the Son of Man (came in the flesh)
 - i. **I Jn 4:2** "By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God"
- B. John written heavily against deny Jesus as the Christ because...
 1. It makes one a liar and antichrist.
 - i. **I Jn 2:22** "Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son."
 2. It makes fellowship with the Father and Son impossible.
 - i. **I Jn 1:6** "If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth."
 - ii. **I Jn 2:6** "whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked."
- C. Why is it so important to belief that Jesus is the Christ
 1. It is necessary for one to be "born of God."
 - i. **I Jn 5:1a** (see above)
 - ii. **Jn 8:24** "I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins."

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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2. It is necessary for one to "overcome the world."
 - i. **I Jn 5:4-5** "For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"
 - ii. We overcome the world only through the One who lives in us.
 - a. **I Jn 4:4** "Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."
 - iii. That One that lives in us gives us the strength to overcome the world.
 - a. **Ph 4:13** "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."
- D. As one brother put it...
 1. "Without faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God who came in the flesh, we cannot be born of God and so live so as to overcome the world!" (<http://goo.gl/oyrXm>)

II. The Test Of Love

- A. Jesus made brotherly love...
 1. A mark of discipleship.
 - i. **Jn 13:34-35** "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
 2. A commandment to prove we are His friends.
 - i. **Jn 15:12-14, 17** "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you...17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another."
- B. John stressed brotherly love as...
 1. Evidence of abiding in the light.
 - i. **I Jn 2:10** "Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling."
 2. Evidence of being a child of God.
 - i. **I Jn 3:10** "By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother."
 3. Evidence of having passed from death to life.
 - i. **I Jn 3:14** "We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death."
 4. Evidence of knowing God and being born of God.
 - i. **I Jn 4:7-8** "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

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- C. Now John writes brotherly love is...
 - 1. A necessary result of loving God.
 - i. **I Jn 5:1b** "...everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him."
 - 2. Thus this is how we know if we love God and the brethren.
 - i. **I Jn 5:2** "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments."
- D. The one born of God not only believes Jesus is the Christ but also loves the brethren

III. The Test Of Obedience

- A. This test has been mentioned by John many times thus far
 - 1. It is necessary to have fellowship with the Father.
 - i. **I Jn 1:6-7** "If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."
 - 2. It is necessary to knowing Jesus.
 - i. **I Jn 2:3-4** "And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him"
 - 3. It is necessary to loving God.
 - i. **I Jn 2:5** "but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him"
 - 4. It is necessary to abiding in Jesus.
 - i. **I Jn 2:6** "whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked."
 - 5. It is necessary to being a child of God.
 - i. **I Jn 3:10** "By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother."
 - 6. It is necessary to having our prayers answered.
 - i. **I Jn 3:22** "and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him."
- B. Now John emphasizes that it is necessary to...
 - 1. Love the children of God.
 - i. **I Jn 5:2** (see above)
 - 2. Love God Himself.
 - i. **I Jn 5:3a** "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments..."
- C. Notice John says this test is not...
 - 1. A burden.
 - i. **I Jn 5:3b** "...And his commandments are not burdensome."

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2. John's attitude toward "command keeping" was like that of David's.
 - i. **Ps 19:7-11** "The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; 8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9 the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. 11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward."

CONCLUSION

1. Within these three areas we find proof of "Authentic Christianity."
 - a. Belief in Jesus as the Christ who has come in the flesh.
 - b. Love of the brethren.
 - c. Obedience to the Law of Christ.
2. Question: Are you an authentic Christian?
 - a. If so grow thereby and continue therein.
 - b. If not why not?
3. Invitation²
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**

² Mark Copeland's sermon outlines "Three Tests Of Authentic Christianity" was instrumental and vital to this outline.