

**Life That Is Real**  
**“The Evidence of Divine Indwelling”**  
**I John 4:14-5:5**  
**Pt. 13**

**Introduction** - The churches that John is writing too have been invaded by false teachers. So John’s concern is that they know what a real Christian looks like. He gives them three tests:

1. The Moral Test of obedience.
2. The Social Test of love.
3. The Doctrinal Test of truth.

The birthmarks of a true child of God.

1. Righteousness
2. Love
3. Truth

Today in our text John weaves all of these birthmarks together into one beautiful tapestry. I see four evidences of the divine indwelling. Note, vs. 12, “*God dwelleth in us.*” See also 15-16 and vs. 12 “*His love is perfected in us.*” What is the evidence of these two experiences?

**I. We Confess His Person**, vv. 14-15

“The confession that Jesus is the Son of God is evidence of God’s indwelling!”

1. The apostolic faith was based on first hand information, vs. 14. See 1:1-3, “seen” and “testify”.
2. The content of the apostolic witness, vs. 14.
  - a. “The Father sent the Son...”
    - Jesus is the Son of God.
  - b. “To be the Savior of the world.”
    - The world is lost and needs a Savior.
3. John draws a conclusion, vs. 15.

*Illus.: “That if thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shall be saved.”*

Rom. 10:9-10

## II. We Manifest His Love, vs. 16-5:1

A. We know God loves us, vs. 16a N.L.T. *“We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love.”*

B. In vs. 16b, John repeats the profound truth that *“God is love”* and from this draws the conclusion that *“he that abideth in love abideth in God, and God abideth in him.”* So love is the evidence of God dwelling in us!

C. *“Herein is our love made perfect,”* vs. 17.

It's not ..... *“only God loves perfectly”*  
It is..... *“fully developed.”*

Two things happen:

1. Boldness in the day of judgement, vv. 17-19.
2. Loving concern for our brothers, vv. 20-5:1.

Three reasons why love for God must express itself in love for brothers:

- A matter of opportunity, vs. 20.
- A matter of obedience, vs. 21.
- A matter of family feeling, vs. 5:1.

## III. We Keep His Commandments, vs. 5:2-3.

His commandments are not grievous. It doesn't mean they're not hard, but rather it's *“burdensome.”*

Why?

- Not like the Pharisees...see 3:23.
- Because of love.
- God gives us the ability and power to obey His commands.

#### **IV. We Overcome By Faith**, vs. 5:4-5

Vs. 1, “Born of God” & vs. 4, “Born of God.” Every true child of God is an overcomer.

Who? “For everyone born of God,” vs. 4.

What? “Overcomes the world,” 2:15-17.

How? Vs. 4b-vs. 5. “Our faith” vs. 5, “believing in Jesus.”

Vs. 5 “Overcometh” Greek, “Nikao”. Nike, a greek goddess of victory.

Illus. : Rom. 8:37, “In all things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.”

It’s something we are not, something we do!

All these are the evidence that God by His Spirit dwells in us!

Jesus said, John 16:33.

Have you been born of God?