

Life That Is Real
“Blessed Assurance”
I John 3:19-24
Pt. 10

Introduction - WE have been looking together at the birthmarks of the true child of God. First, “*doing righteousness*” (3:10a) and second, “*loving his brother*” (3:10b). But, what should our love look like? It should be, “*sacrificial*” (vs. 16), “*simple*” (vs. 17) and “*sincere*” (vs. 18).

The danger of the condemning heart (vs. 20-21). John goes on a digression to talk about assurance and the condemning heart. John is teaching in verses 19-24 that the believer’s *sacrificial, simple and sincere* love life brings assurance that they possess “*Life that is Real*”.

The link between verses 11-18 and our text today is the word “*truth*” (vv. 18-19). John wants us to know we are of the truth. Note vs. 19, “*hereby we know*” and vs. 24 “*hereby we know*”.

So John shares with us three *blessed assurances* that are the fruit of the believer’s love life!

I. The Assurance of a Confident Heart, vv. 19-20.

1. The Possibility of Assurance, vs. 19.

The presence of genuine love in our lives makes possible two wonderful experiences!

- a. “Knowing that we are of the truth” vs. 19a. It’s a knowledge that’s experiential.
- b. “Assurance of heart before God” vs. 19b.

Illus.: The problem. True believers are at times stricken with *uncertainty, insecurity, and feelings of self-condemnation*.

So be careful not to listen to your “heart”! Jer. 17:9, “The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

2. Ask? What do we do with an accusing heart?

Answer, vs. 20, I John 1:9.

- Don’t let Satan condemn you!
- Romans 8

- Illus.: Peter, John 21

So the practicers of love brings assurance that I am God's child. For that kind of love is the Fruit of the Spirt.

No Christian should treat sin lightly, but no Christian should be harder on himself than God is. There is a morbid kind of self-examination and self-condemnation that is not spiritual. If you are practicing genuine love for the brethren, your heart must be right before God, for the Holy Spirit would not "shed abroad" His love in you if there were habitual sin in your heart. When you grieve the Holy Spirit, you "turn off" the supply of God's love (Eph. 4:30-5:2).

II. The Assurance of Answered Prayer, vv. 21-22.s

John now turns from the condemning heart, and how to reassure it, to the blessing of a heart that does not condemn, vs. 21a.

The loving believer not only has a heart that is at peace and untroubled, but as a result has two other blessings.

1. Confidence before God, vs. 21b.

2. Answers from God, vs. 22.

- We don't earn answers to prayer.
- There are other conditions to prayer, see 5:14-15.
- But if we are living in obedience to His will in His word; and seeking to please Him; His will becomes our will!

III. The Assurance of Abiding, vv. 23-24.

A. John now tells us what the commandment is that we are to keep, vs. 23.

He goes from "*commandments*" verse 22 to "*commandment*" verse 23.

What is the commandment of God that we must keep to have *assurance, answered prayer and abiding*?

Fundamentally there is only one.

- Faith in Jesus Christ, vs. 23.
- Love for one another, vs. 23.

So the Christian life, “faith” toward God and “love” toward man.

Illus.: A scribe asked Jesus what was the greatest commandment! Matt. 22

1. **“Believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ.”** It’s the doctrinal test. We find in I John.
2. **“Love one another.”** “As he gave us commandment.”

Lessons - both doctrine and love are important.

B. If we keep His “commandments” we have the assurance of the two things.

1. **We abide in Him**, vs. 24a.
2. **He abides in us**, vs. 24b.

So it’s a mutual abiding! See 4:12, 13, 15, 16. Illus.: Jesus teaching, Jn 15.

How? vs. 24, “*by His Spirit.*” If not Romans 8:9.

It’s the Holy Spirit that produces His fruit, “*love*”. So Blessed Assurance.

It all happens when you are born of the Spirit!