

This. Is. Love.
1 John 4b-21
October 21, 2014

- I. A Look Back – 1 John 5:3:5
 - A. Following the Logic
 1. To love God is to keep his _____
 - a. However, those commands are not _____
 2. Because everyone who is _____ of God is able to keep those commands
 3. Through _____ in Jesus Christ

- II. Testimony to the Truth About Jesus – Vv. 5-12
 - A. The Testimony of the Water and the Blood – Vv. 5-6b
 1. Why multiple witnesses?
 - a. What was _____ in Jewish law

 2. Not by water _____
 - a. Something on which John and the secessionists _____

 3. Water
 - a. Could refer to Jesus' _____

 - b. More likely refers to Jesus' _____

 4. Blood
 - a. A way to refer to Jesus' atoning _____ on the cross
 - b. Here is where there was _____

 - c. Apart from the cross, there is no _____
 - d. Life is found _____ in him

 5. In what sense do the water and the blood _____ to Jesus?
 - a. When people did not accept Jesus' testimony, he told them to believe based on his _____
 - b. Jesus' baptism and crucifixion form something of a _____ on Jesus' ministry

c. So it would be the _____ of Jesus that testify to the truth of Jesus and the gospel

B. The Testimony of the Spirit – Vv. 6c-8

1. An _____ witness
 - a. The Spirit is _____
 - b. The Spirit _____ us in the Truth
 - c. And the Spirit helps us _____ Truth
 - d. The Spirit inside of us _____ to us the Truth Jesus
2. Through the _____
 - a. The testimony of _____
3. Agreement
 - a. The water, the blood, and the Spirit all say the _____ thing

C. The Testimony of the Father – Vv. 9-12

1. _____ statement
 - a. John is saying, “If we accept the testimony of _____, surely we must accept the testimony of _____”
2. Ultimately, the argument of the secessionists is not against John or the church or us, it is against _____ who testifies about his Son
 - a. At his _____
 - b. At the _____
 - c. On the cross and in the _____
 - d. Through _____
 - e. Through _____ and apostles and teachers
 - f. And in our _____
3. Here is the Testimony: Life is found _____ in Jesus

III. Closing Thoughts – Vv. 13-21

A. Reinforcing Themes

1. We see again his twin purpose
 - a. Combat the _____ of the secessionists
 - b. _____ his discouraged church members
2. John wants them to _____ what they know

B. Prayer and Assurance – Vv. 13-15

1. Purpose of the _____
 - a. So that they _____ they have eternal _____ in Christ
 - b. Eternal life being found in _____ has been a theme in the letter

2. Believe in the _____
 - a. Same as believing in the _____ of Jesus
 - b. A name stood for the _____ of the person

3. Prayer
 - a. John is saying that as we grow closer to God, our _____ come in line with his
 - b. When our _____ becomes God's will, we can know he will answer that prayer

C. Prayer and Sin – Vv. 16-18

1. Three big points
 - a. _____ for one another
 - b. Those born of God do not “_____” in sin
 - c. Jesus keeps believers _____ from the evil one
2. Pray for one another
 - a. We must hold one another up in _____
3. Sins that lead or do not lead to _____
 - a. Death here means eternal, _____ death
 - b. The sins of a true believer are _____ by Jesus' blood
 - c. The sins of the _____ are not covered
 - d. The sin that leads to death would be the sin of _____
4. Is John saying to _____ pray for unbelievers?
 - a. No, but he is saying the prayer is _____
 - b. Don't pray for the sin being committed, but rather for the _____ of the person so that sin will be covered
5. The main point remains, however, that the community of faith must be _____ in lifting one another up in prayer
6. “Continuing” in _____
 - a. Does not mean we don't sin _____
 - b. However, we do not live a life or _____ of sin
7. Jesus keeps us _____
 - a. We will be kept safe from being led _____
 - b. And we are kept _____ safe

D. Three Certainties – Vv. 18-20

1. We _____ we will not continue in sin (vs. 18)

- a. This is _____
 - 2. We _____ that we are children of God
 - a. We, not _____, are God's children
 - b. We need the protection of Jesus because the whole _____ is under the control of Satan
 - 3. Redemptive _____
 - a. We _____ Jesus has given us understanding
 - b. Because of this, we _____ God
- E. Amazing Statement About Jesus – vs. 20b
- 1. We are in _____ by being in _____
 - 2. Who is "He"?
 - 3. I believe John is saying _____ is the true _____ and eternal life

F. Idols – Vs. 21

- 1. The verb "to keep" literally means "to _____ against"
- 2. An idol is anything that _____ with God in our lives
- 3. So John is admonishing his readers to _____ against anything that would compete with God
 - a. Anything they would be tempted to make a _____ for God or for the truth of his gospel
 - b. Including the _____ teaching of the secessionists
- 4. So John ends by reminding them to guard against the _____ and _____ of the secessionists

IV. Applying 1 John

A. A Community That Loves