

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

July 2016

True Christianity

INTRODUCTION

As Christians, what do we mean by the term “believe”? Vs 1

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read 1 John 5:1-5

Note: We now come to the third test of “sonship”, the test of truth. A key phrase is “we know.” “The phrase “Jesus is the Christ” corresponds to 1 John 2:22 and is possibly an early creedal formulation.¹⁴⁹ The Greek term translated “father” (NIV) is literally “the one who has begotten” (gennēsanta), and “his child” is literally “the one begotten from him. John is stating that a believer must love his heavenly Father and the other offspring of his heavenly Father (i.e., Jesus and/ or his brothers and sisters in Christ).¹⁵⁴ John may be stressing the need for obedient living against those of his congregation who slighted moral conformity to God’s word.”²

1. Why does John think faith and love are inseparable? **1 Jn 3:23**
2. Since John has already shown how someone becomes a child of God (Jn 1:12) what is he trying to say?
3. Would you say that love for God is more of an emotional experience or a moral commitment?
Explain. Vs 3; **Ps 119:172**
4. Why did the scribes and Pharisees create so many rules and regulations that they became a burden? Vs 3; **Matt 23:4**
5. Is John implying that God’s moral standards for Christians are not high so they are not a burden? How can Christians live up to His standards? Vs 4; **Matt 11:28-30; Rom 8:36-37; Gen 29:20**
6. What is the “world” that John is referring to? Vs 4; **John 16:33; Col 2:8**
7. According to John, what is one of the “birthmarks” of a believer? Vs 4

Note: The Christian, whose will is united with the will of God, will not find obedience to that will a task.³

8. In verse 4, John’s “victory” could be referring to: a) Christ’s once and for all victory at the cross over sin, Satan and the world, b) the believer’s victory over heretics, c) the victory that occurs at conversion of the individual believer. Which one do you think it is? **1 Cor 15:57**

APPLICATION

How can you know that you are loving God and His children?

There is a law in every city that parents must take care of their children, or else be put in jail. Is it a burden for parents to work and sacrifice to care for their children? Or do they care for them only because they fear this law? Neither is true! They obey the law because they love their children. The Christian who complains that God’s Word is a burden does not know the meaning of love.⁴

¹⁴⁹ O. A. Piper, “1 John and the Didache of the Primitive Church,” *JBL* 66 (1947): 438.

^{1 2} Akin, D. L. (2001). *Vol. 38: 1, 2, 3 John* (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (189). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

NIV New International Version

¹⁵⁴ Brooke states, “Every one who loves the father who begat him naturally loves the other children whom his father has begotten.... Those who are ‘born of God’ must love all His children, as surely as it is natural that any child should love his father’s other children” (*Johannine Epistles*, 127–28).

³ Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Ed.). (1909). *1 John* (p. 139). London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company.

⁴ Wiersbe, W. W. (1997). *Wiersbe’s expository outlines on the New Testament* (777). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.