

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

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

July 2016

True Christianity

INTRODUCTION

What is the difference between “believing Jesus” and “believing in Jesus”? Vs 10

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read 1 John 5:6-12

Note: John insists that both the Baptism and the Crucifixion are essential to understanding Jesus and his mission. The water and blood (Vs 6) are probably referring to Jesus' baptism and sacrificial death. Some Gnostics thought that Jesus, the man, became the Christ at his baptism. The Christ then departed at his death. Of course this denies how a mere man could be resurrected. The apostles (like John) said that Jesus' baptism (water) was a way to publicly identify with man's sins even though he had never sinned. “Another view is that the water is a reference to the historical reality (testimony) of Christ's birth as a man, to redeem men.”¹ The apostles say that His death (blood) took away those sins. Heb 9:14 Some scholars today say it refers more to the blood Jesus mentioned at the Last Supper. Lk 22:20 This could also refer to the wound in Christ's side during the Crucifixion (Jn 19:34-35) to show (testify) that He had human qualities, something the Gnostics denied. Jesus was not just a myth or an illusion.

1. According to John, who are the three witnesses? Vs 6; Why three? **Dt 17:6; 19:15; Heb 10:28-29**
2. Witness speaks of the testimony of something that is true. What is the difference between historical witness (i.e. water) and subjective witness (i.e. Holy Spirit)?
3. How do these two types of witness complement each other for believers?
4. Why would the Holy Spirit know truth? **Jn 15:26; 16:13-14**
5. Why is it important for believers to understand that Jesus was *divine* before, during and after His baptism and death?
6. In a court of law, the testimony of men is generally accepted as true and valid. How much greater is the testimony (witness) of God? Vv 9-11 **Jn 5:3-47**
7. Why (how) would someone call a God who cannot lie (**Titus 1:2**) a liar? **1 Jn 2:22**
8. All this talk of witness and testimony leads to a verdict. What is it? Vv 11-12; **Jn 3:36**

APPLICATION

How can you make sure that you have the Son (eternal life)? Vs 12 **Jn 14:6**

As soon as we reduce the death of Jesus to that of a mere man, so soon do we lose the cardinal point of the New Testament doctrine of the atonement, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself; in the last analysis, the doctrine of the atonement means that God himself bears our sins and shows that the final reality in the universe is his sin-bearing, pardoning love, but if Jesus is not the Son of God, his death can no longer bear this significance. So-called theologies, which reduce talk of the incarnation to the status of myth, may be attractive to modern men, but they take away our assurance that God's character is sin-bearing love.^{191 2}

¹ Kress, E. E. (2002). *Notes for the Study and Exposition of 1st John* (118). The Woodlands, TX: Kress Christian Publications.

¹⁹¹ Marshall, *Epistles of John*, 233–34.

² Akin, D. L. (2001). *Vol. 38: 1, 2, 3 John* (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (197). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.