

Intro: Getting Ready for AWANA: How do you know ready? 1. Vest; 2. Book; 3. Bible; 4. Tennis Shoes!

1 Jn 5:12: I have written you these things so you might KNOW!!!!

John is writing to the church, and saying, "How do you KNOW if you are ready?" (3 things)

Many say: All You Have To Do Is Believe! Just pray this prayer, say the magic words and you will go to heaven!

I remember thinking to myself...It CAN'T be that easy! Surely there must be a "catch" somewhere...Got to be more!

Yes: And No! Yes believing IS that easy. We come to the place in our life that we believe...put our faith in Jesus

BUT: While believing IS that easy, John says this to us: IF YOU REALLY BELIEVE...Your life will be changed!

3 "Tests" Of Fellowship

Believing Right...Results in Living Right...Results In Loving Right

1 John 2:1-11

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1. Test # 1: Am I Believing Right?

1 John 2:1-2

This is what we are MOST familiar with in our culture. Do I intellectually agree to the right information? Do I Believe?

- **He is our atoning sacrifice:** Propitiation: 2:2 Lit = *Satisfaction of Justice of God: Wages of sin:*
Reminds us of the OT sacrificial system: Designed to teach us, help us understand, **FORESHADOW**
Sacrifice was made, blood was sprinkled and that blood was "atonement" for sin.
Hebrews: 9:7ff High Priest entered with the blood:
John says, He took our place! The just for the unjust, in order to bring us to God. The price was paid Not by YOU
God doesn't just wink and blink and say, forget it, its all Good: Price was paid on the cross. He took YOUR place
Not just YOUR place...but He died for the sin of the world...**Sufficient** for everyone: **Operational** in those believe Jn 1
- **He is our Advocate:** Lit = *one called alongside to help; one who speaks on another's behalf; argues in your favor*
Illus: Judicial term: Talks about what a lawyer does for you. Argues your case! Intercedes for your favor
He does not maintain our innocence: He reminds the Father that the price has been paid, debt no longer owed!
1 Pet 2:24" *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.*

Applic: Isn't it wonderful?

Jesus is BOTH the Priest...AND the Sacrifice!

We don't have to hide our sin. We don't have to cover it up. Act like it isn't there, Lie about it

We simply have to confess it...bring it to the Father and admit it, ask for His forgiveness, and accept what Jesus has done!

Sample Prayer: New Life in Christ

Test # 2: Am I Living Right?.

2:3-6

John then picks ups and says this: If my BELIEF is REAL, then it will show up in the way I LIVE and in the way I LOVE!

He is saying, "A TRUE knowledge of Him is reflected in a life of obedience and love: If no obedience and love: No Knowledge

Vs 3: "By this we know that we have come to know Him! John is communicating a LOT of things here, so let me summarize!

- Vs 3: Saving Knowledge is not a point in time static thing! It grows, matures and lives over time!
Illus: Yes He saves us just as we are...meets us, loves us, accepts us: Never intended we STAY that way!
Verb Tense is important: "By this we KNOW that we have come to KNOW!"
1st Know: This is how I am currently knowing, this is a present active knowledge that lives in my heart: Internal
2nd Know: This is a settled conviction that is based on a point in time that has ongoing consequences and convictions
Something Happened back then that continue to live in my heart today...and it isn't static: ACTIVE KNOWLEDGE
- Vs 4: *Our actions say more about our belief than our words do!*
It is easy to mouth the words, consent to a series of intellectual points. That is NOT NT belief!
If we say we know Him but there is not any change in life where we are being conformed to His image
Illus: Pattern of Spiritual Maturity diagram
Two things are lessening over time: Frequency of occurrence and Time Delay of confession
To KNOW Him truly is to know Him as God: The God of the universe (Not big guy) deserves/demands obedience
Illus: Going straight at false teaching in NT church of that day: All you gotta do is believe! Living: NO Still here!
John is teaching us this: We must believe, but if that belief is REAL then it will show up in actions:
Illus: If I say I believe that I don't have enough gas to get to destination...but keep driving...don't REALLY believe!
- Vs 5: God's love for you is about a LOT more than just "being saved"
His love for you is "perfected" Lit = *to reach its intended destination; to mature; to reach it's designed outcome*
The Goal if God's saving grace in your life is NOT to just save you from Hell!
The GOAL is for you to be conformed into the image of Christ, to become the Man/Woman created to be!
Life to be transformed, so that you actually begin to BE a child of God...and LIVE like a child of God!
Illus:"Faith and obedience are bound up in the same bundle. He that obeys God trusts God; He that trusts God obeys God." Charles Spurgeon
- Vs 6: **True belief doesn't fade and fall away, but rather continues to grow and go forward**
Verb tense again:
Vs 4: Whoever keeps on saying I know Him...but keeps on not keeping His commandments (Pattern vs Occurrence)
Vs 6: Whoever keeps on saying I know Him...has to keep on walking like Jesus walked!
True belief is REFLECTED in a life that is being transformed over time...consistently becoming more like Him!!!

Test # 3: Am I Loving Right?

Vs 7-11

The final piece John addresses for us here is how we love others. Basically he says to us, "You are called to love like Jesus."

- He begins by reminding us, this is nothing new! This commandment is as old as Genesis and creation
Love your neighbor as yourself

Illus: Started with Cain and Abel; Am I my brother's keeper?

OT: Le 19:18 "...but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD."

Jesus echoed it for us: What is the summary of Law: Love God with all your HSMS; Neighbor as self

Keep in mind, when John is talking about love, he is not talking about that warm fuzzy feeling, sweaty palms, pounding heart. That's not the kind of love he is speaking to. John is talking about the love that God has for people. It is the love that seeks the BEST of the individual, the love that motivates us to meet needs, help, give, serve, pray. I saw THAT kind of love in action yesterday!

Illus: I just want to say to you how proud I am to be your pastor! What I saw was amazing! God was at work. And, he was at work through YOU! Almost 300 people, 15 projects: Schools; Fire Dept; Historic; Disability SF That is the positive side of the "Walking the way Jesus walked"

- We cannot claim to love God and hate our brother
But, it is just as important for us to acknowledge the other side of the equation:

Let me contemporize this for you, and tell you what John would be speaking to in OUR day!

3 Ways We Hate our Brothers

~Racism To hate someone because of the color of their skin absolutely wrong

Ga 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

~Unforgiveness To refuse to forgive an offence

Eph 4:32 "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

~Indifference: To not be moved by someone in need to help meet their hurt and pain.

1Jo 3:17 "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?"

That is the kind of love and hate that John is talking to us about.

CONCL: So, how are you doing?

5:12 "These things have I written to you that you might KNOW you have eternal life!"

There tests: John says, check your heart!

Q #1: Am I believing right?

Jesus is the offering and the Advocate

Q#2: Am I living right?

Am I walking as Jesus walked?

Q#3: Am I loving right?

Am I loving the way Jesus loved?

Notice here...it really is all about Jesus!

Come pray to know Jesus

Come pray to confess and ask forgiveness for falling short

Come pray and ask God to give you a heart for people like Jesus