



02/17/2013

Youth E.D.G.E. Sunday School

Back to the Basics: A Study of I John - Part XI

Distinctives of the Definite

I John 3:19-24

I. Distinctive #1: The Definite are Characterized by a love for others (v. 19).

Here's the popular topic of love again! John's first point is that we can know that we belong to the truth if we possess the kind of love that he talked about in verses 11-18. Love that is from the beginning. Love that rejects hatred. Love that requires radical sacrifice.

II. Distinctive #2: The Definite do not Depend on their feelings (vv. 20-21).

Your Christianity doesn't depend on your actions that lead to your feelings, but on the finished work of Jesus Christ.

A. God secures you when you doubt (v. 20).

There will be times of doubt. This passage offers assurance for those times.

1. God is greater than your doubts.
2. God knows more than your doubts.

B. God secures you when you don't doubt (v. 21).

The point here is that your eternal security is entirely independent from your feelings! When you doubt and when you don't doubt, your security does not change!

III. Distinctive #3: The Definite Benefit from Answered Prayer (vv. 22-23).

Not only do Christians have access to Christ through prayer, but they have the assurance that He will answer prayer.

But there is a **Commandment**:

Prayers are answered when we believe in Jesus, and love one another (v. 23).

Faith in Christ is a decisive action, while love for others is a continuous attitude. Without these two, prayers will not be answered.

IV. Distinctive #4: The Definite Know the Spirit's Presence (v. 24).

If we would set our hearts at rest when the condemn us, we must look for evidence of the Spirit's presence in our lives.