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Youth E.D.G.E. Sunday School

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

## Tests of True Assurance

I John 4:13-21

### I. Test #1: Do You Possess the Spirit (v. 13)?

If you possess the Spirit, you will be able to believe in Christ (4:1-3), and show love to others. The Spirit enables us to confess who Jesus is and to love others as we should.

### II. Test #2: Do You Confess the Gospel (vv. 14-15)?

At first, a confession of the gospel might seem like a simple test. Take a look at what John means here in verses 14 & 15 --

#### A. Do you know the truth about salvation (v. 14)?

Though the apostles saw it with their own eyes, we, though faith, see the cross lifted up for our salvation. This is the truth about salvation: Jesus was sent by God for your propitiation.

#### B. Do you know who Jesus is? (v. 15)?

This refers to more than just a public acknowledgment of a historical fact. It refers to placing all of your trust in Him!

### III. Test #3: Do You Practice Love (vv. 16-21)?

To some, this might sound familiar as you've studied through this book to this point. John, however, gives us the test of love and then breaks it down into several sub-tests.

#### A. Do you abide in love (v. 16)?

It is one thing to know and to believe that God is love. It is another to allow ourselves to abide in His love. The only way to truly believe & practice love is to abide in the love of God.

#### B. Do you have confidence regarding judgment (v. 17)?

We have more than just hope in Christ's return. We have confidence based upon the fact that we are joint-heirs with Christ. We are "*like Him in the world.*"

#### C. Do you have victory over fear (v. 18)?

We can love God and give Him the reverence and awe that He deserves, but we cannot approach Him in fear at the same time. The one who fears God in a retributive sense has not been made perfect by God's love.

#### D. Do you live truthfully (v. 20)?

*"Every claim to love God is a delusion if it is not accompanied by unselfish and practical love for our brothers and sisters."* - Stott

#### E. Do you show love to others (v. 21)?

We can't separated what God joined. If we love God, we keep His commandments.