

The First Epistle of John

(Week 38 – 1John 3:19-24 part3)

I. Review

A. 1John 3:21 (ESV), “*Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God*”

1. Living a life of love produces confidence before God
2. Such a life reassures our heart (vs. 18)
3. The goal is to keep our conscience clean

II. Blessed Assurance (part 3)

A. 1John 3:21-22 (ESV), “*Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; (22) and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him.*”

1. When our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence which reassures us of two specific blessings:
 - a. God answers our prayers (vs. 22)
 - b. God’s Spirit lives in us (vs. 24)
2. The confidence that John speaks of denotes the boldness with which a child goes before his/her loving father; not as a condemned criminal before a judge!
3. Confidence says: “God answers our prayers!”
 - a. John makes a bold statement in verse 22a:
 - i. “*and whatever we ask we receive from Him...*”
 1. **Question: Does this mean that God will always give us what we ask of Him?**
 - We must ask with proper motives
 - a. James 4:3 (ESV), “*You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.*”
 - What we ask must be in accordance to His will
 - a. 1John 5:14 (ESV), “*And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.*”
 - i. For example: Jesus asked the Father to remove the cup of wrath from Him, but it was the will of the Father that He should drink it (Matthew 26:39, 42)
 - ii. If Christ hadn’t drunk the cup, we would all be eternally condemned!
 - b. Jesus taught that, in prayer, we are to ask for God’s will be done (Matt. 6:10)

- b. The reason why God answers our prayers is found in the second part of verse 22:
- i. *“...because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him.”*
 1. God does not answer the prayers of the disobedient
 2. He answers the prayers of those who know (1John 2:4-6) and love (1John 5:3) Him!
 3. God-pleasers, in their prayers, desire to glorify God!
 4. John then sums up God’s commandments by giving one commandment with two prongs...
 - ii. 1John 3:23 (ESV), *“And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.”*
 1. Believe in the name of His Son
 - Note: Believe, faith, trust are all the same.
 - To believe in the name of Jesus includes all of what Christianity teaches:
 - a. Regarding the person of Jesus
 - i. He is the Christ (cf. 1John 2:22)
 - ii. He came in the flesh (cf. 1John 4:2)
 - b. Regarding salvation
 - i. Salvation comes through Jesus (1John 2:2), not through some “secret knowledge”
 - c. Regarding the Christian lifestyle
 - i. 1John 2:5-6; 1John 2:29; 1John 3:7 all point towards righteous living.
 2. Love one another
 - The Golden Rule – *“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them”* – Matthew 7:12 (ESV)
 - iii. In other words, God answers the prayers of those whose “faith is working through love” (cf. Galatians 5:6)
4. Confidence says: “God’s Spirit lives in us!”
- a. 1John 3:24 (ESV), *“Whoever keeps His commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.”*
 - i. Jesus promised that He would make His home in us:
 1. John 14:23 (ESV), *“Jesus answered him, ‘If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.’”*
 2. Jesus accomplishes this by giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38; Ephesians 1:13-14)
 - ii. The evidence that we are children of God is knowing that the Holy Spirit lives within us
 1. It’s by His Spirit’s influence and power, we are able to love (cf. Galatians 5:22)