

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

I JOHN 3:19-24

Lesson 12

REVIEW:

In last week's lesson you were instructed to ask the Lord to reveal to you ways you could love others. What difference has choosing **love** made in your life and in the lives of others?

FIRST DAY:

Read and study I John 3:19-24 inductively. See pages 5 and 6.

SECOND DAY: Read I John 3:19

1. I John 3:19 states that we can know *we are of the truth*. The word *hereby* indicates that John is continuing his thoughts from the last paragraph division. We studied last week in I John 3:14 that we can *know we have passed from death unto life*. Keeping this in mind, how can we *know we are of the truth*?
 - a. What does the phrase *we are of the truth* mean?
2. What is the result of knowing *we are of the truth*?
3. *This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in His presence.* I John 3:19 NIV We can be confident in the very presence of God. What is the basis of our *confidence* according to the following Scriptures:
 - a. Hebrews 10:19
 - b. I John 2:1
 - 1.) We have been granted free access to God through our faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What does it mean to you to know you can come before His presence with an assured heart?

*Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith,
having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience...*

- Hebrews 10:22 NIV

THIRD DAY: Read I John 3:20

1. I John 3:20 begins with the reaction many have when they reflect upon how they have not expressed love towards others. How does John describe that response of the heart?
2. Often, when we have failed, our hearts persuade us that we are unworthy of coming before the Father. What is revealed in Jeremiah 17:9 about our heart?
 - a. Who also *accuses us day and night*? Revelation 12:9,10
 - b. I John 3:20 declares that *God is greater than our heart*. I John 4:4 reminds us that God is also *greater than he that is in the world*. How does this comfort you?
3. God not only sees our actions (or lack of them), but He knows our very hearts. Look up Psalm 69:5 and Hebrews 4:12,13. What do these verses say about how well God knows us?
 - a. Does this strike fear in your heart or does it bring comfort? What would make the difference in how we react to reading the above verses?
4. What do we know about God's heart towards us according to Psalm 34:18 and Psalm 103:13?
 - a. How do these verses help you understand how God reacts when your *heart condemns you*?

*My flesh and my heart faileth:
but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.
...it is good for me to draw near to God...
-Psalm 73:26,28a*

FOURTH DAY: Read John 3:21,22

1. According to I John 3:21, what can we have *if our hearts condemn us not*?
 - a. Record some synonyms for the word *confidence*.
 - 1.) The words *if our heart condemn us not* do not claim sinless perfection, but represent the heart attitude of a believer that, so far as he knows, has no unconfessed sin in his life. The opposite result of a *condemning heart* is *confidence*. When we have been released from a sense of guilt we feel the freedom to approach God as His beloved children. How does a child who is aware of how loved he is approach his father?

2. Having a *confidence toward God* is one result of being able to *assure our hearts before Him* and of *our hearts condemning us not*. According to I John 3:22a what is another amazing benefit?
 - a. What does I John 3:22b reveal are the conditions for receiving that which we have asked of Him?

Challenge: Record other Scriptures which address some of the requirements for answered prayer. Use a separate sheet of paper.

*When our delight is in the love of God,
Our desires will be in the will of God.
- Warren Wiersbe*

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 3:23,24

1. I John 3:22 states two conditions of prayer as *keeping His commandments* and *doing those things that are pleasing in His sight*. The full commandment of God is not simply *loving the brethren*. From I John 3:23 what else are we *commanded* to do?
 - a. What are we believing when we *believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ*?
 - 1.) Why is this essential to answered prayer?
2. What does I John 3:24a declare is the prerequisite for dwelling in Christ and He dwelling in us?
 - a. What does Jesus say in John 14:15 is proof of our *love* for Him?
 - 1.) Ponder the privilege of expressing your love for Jesus through obeying His commandments. Why should obedience not be a grievous burden to us?
 - b. Explain, as you would to a new believer, what it means to dwell in Him and He in you.
3. We have studied in the past two chapters the importance of *keeping His commandments* and *loving others* as determining factors in our relationship with God. Now, John concludes chapter 3 with yet another evidence of *abiding*. According to I John 3:24b, how can we know that *He abideth in us*?

- a. *For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by Him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.* Romans 8:15,16 NIV In what ways have you found this to be true in your life?

SIXTH DAY: Review I John 3:19-24

1. John begins and ends this paragraph division with the phrase *And hereby we know*. What are some of the assuring statements in this portion?
 - a. What are they conditioned upon?
2. What condemnation or conviction might some be experiencing after reading I John 3:11-18?
 - a. Consider the saying "Feelings make great passengers, but they make poor drivers". Often we say the same thing about our hearts or consciences. What should be our response when *our hearts condemn us*?
3. How has this study spoken to you about having confidence towards God?
4. *And hereby we know that He abideth in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us... The fruit of the Spirit is love...By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.* (I John 3:24b, Galatians 5:22a, John 13:35) Love is the evidence to believers and to the world of the reality of Jesus Christ. Make the following your prayer as you choose to *do those things that are pleasing in His sight*.

*Holy Spirit, glorify Jesus through me. Just take my life and make it all Thine.
Glorify Jesus through me all the time. May they see You, God, so pure and so kind.
When they look at my life, may it be You that they find.
May it be You that they see. Glorify Jesus through me.*

-TBD

I John 3:19-24

VERSE

WHAT THE VERSE IS SAYING

- 19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.
- 20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.
- 21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.
- 22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.
- 23 And this is His commandment, That we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave us commandment.
- 24 And he that keepeth His commandments dwelleth in Him, and He in him. And hereby we know that He abideth in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us.

Who:

When:

What:

Where:

Why:

How:

What does this passage mean?

How does it apply to you personally?