



Gospel of Grace
FELLOWSHIP

1 John 3:19-22

Christian Assurance

by Bob DeWaay

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Text From NASB With Annotations

1 John 3:19
We will know by this (valid love) that we are of the truth, and will assure ('persuade' or 'set at ease') our heart (the inner person) before (*emprosthen*, 'in front of') Him.

1 John 3:20
in whatever our heart condemns (lit. 'know against') us; for God is greater than our heart (God is the heart knower) and knows all things.

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Text From NASB With Annotations

1 John 3:21
Beloved, if our heart does not condemn ('know against') us, we have confidence (*parresia* = boldness in speaking) before (*emprosthen*) God.

1 John 3:22
and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep (*te reo* = 'to observe attentively') His commandments and do the things that are pleasing (*arestos* = acting out of love for God) in His sight.

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Knowing We Truly Abide

1 John 3:19 (NASB)
We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him

- “Of the truth” is a parallel concept to “abides in Him” (1Jn 3:6) and “children of God” (1Jn 3:10)
- “By this” refers to acts of practical love
- “assure” can be said as “set at ease”
- The assured heart before God implies knowing that we are truly His children and right with Him

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LAWLESSNESS <i>No Lie Is of the Truth 1Jn 2:21</i>	ABIDING <i>Of the Truth 1Jn 3:19</i>
<p>1Jn 3:10 (Children of the devil, no righteousness)</p> <p>1Jn 3:12 (Cain, of the evil one, evil deeds)</p> <p>1Jn 3:15 (hates his brother, murderer, no eternal life)</p> <p>1Jn 3:17 (no love within)</p>	<p>1Jn 3:10 (children of God, righteous)</p> <p>1Jn 3:13 (the world hates us)</p> <p>1Jn 3:14 (passed from death to life)</p> <p>1Jn 3:16, 18 (lay down life, love)</p> <p>1Jn 3:19 (know we are of the truth)</p> <p>1Jn 3:20 (God transcends our heart)</p> <p>1Jn 3:21 (confidence before God)</p>
<p>In this realm, assurance would be fatal!</p>	<p>In this realm, taking action to love shows you are of the truth (saved)</p>
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God Transcends Our Conscience

1John 3:20 (NASB)
in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.

- Christians may have serious internal misgivings about their status
- Most Christians have times when they wonder if they are loving enough
- The ‘great God’ who saved us also comforts us (see Psalm 119:49, 50 ESV)

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Confidence to Approach God

1John 3:21 (NASB)
Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;

- John uses a tender, personal form of address
- This is about the resolution of a troubled heart
- This bold access to God is because of God's merciful promises in Christ
- "before" is *pros* which implies before God's face (Psalm 42:5 NASB)

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We Abide in Christ and Please God

1John 3:22 (NASB)
and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

- The command to love is always primary (John 13:34)
- Asking and receiving are relational rather than transactional or mechanical
- True believers desire to please Christ
- We are to take action based on His word and promises

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Implications and Applications

- All believers are "of the truth"
- The human heart needs God's intervention
- We are to draw near to God with confidence

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We Must Be of the Truth

John 18:37 (NASB)
Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

- Jesus was "born" **and** came into the world which implies His pre-existence (an eternal purpose)
- His purpose includes testifying to the truth
- There are two types of hearing: Pilate's and that of believers (the outer and inner call)
- He reigns now in those who have heard

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The Heart Needs God's Intervention

Jeremiah 17:9, 10 (NASB)
The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds.

- Only God knows the heart (Acts 15:8)
- Only God can change us (Jeremiah 17:14)
- God blesses those who trust Him (Jeremiah 17:7)

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Draw Near to God

Hebrews 4:16 (NASB)
Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- Confidence is important to hold on to (Heb. 3:6)
- "Draw near" is technical terminology applied only to the high priest on the Day of Atonement in OT. Now, in Christ, all believers are exhorted to "draw near"
- What we receive at the throne are grace, mercy, and timely help

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