

## Passage: 1 John - Selected Scriptures

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Draft Summary:

Marks of a True Christian

- A Christian walks in the light as a style of life.
- A Christian lives a life of confession.
- A Christian has a new relationship with sin as a lifestyle.
- A Christian wants to be like Jesus.
- A Christian cares about God's people and does something.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- Are there any areas of your life where you are living contrary to God's will and nature?
- How may one be tempted to live for the applause of men instead of God?
- How may we show compassion and care for God's people?
- What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?

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### EXPOSITION

#### 1 John 5:13

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

- This is not about works but rather that if faith in Christ is genuine, then "these things" will be known in your life.
- "These things = the Word of God"

Question: What happens if someone is truly converted?

#### 2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

- Becoming a Christian does involve an act of the will - you make a decision. A decision to follow Christ.
- But that decision came about by regeneration by the power of the Spirit.

#### Ezekiel 36:26

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

- God regenerates a cold, callous heart that cannot respond to stimuli by the Spirit into a new heart.
  - We were dead in our sins. Not interested in God or things of God.
- Question: Are you a new creature? Have you been changed and have you continued to change?
  - Or is it just an empty profession?

### Marks of a Christian - Major Tests of Genuine Faith in Christ

God has revealed Himself to who He is.

#### 1 John 1:5

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

- Darkness = lack of revelation, God is hidden.
  - Not just moral darkness

- Contrast: God has shown us who He is and revealed Himself.

### **I. A Christian walks in the light as a style of life.**

#### 1 John 1:6

If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

- If we walk in darkness, we are not a Christian.
- “Walk” = walking around
  - Meaning = lifestyle
- If our lifestyle reflects darkness where we live in a way that completely contradicts what God has told about Himself and His will, then we are lying we are a Christian.
- Analogy: if see the fruit of the tree, will know the type of the tree.
  - Likewise, genuine faith shows itself by how we live.
  - If we live in a way that is contrary to God’s will and nature, then we must be greatly concerned.
- our style of life reflects His character and His will

### **II. A Christian lives a life of confession.**

#### 1 John 1:8-10

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

- walking in the light = walk in the revelation of God.
- Someone who sees where they fall short with regards to obedience to God’s will
- It breaks them, causes them sorrow, and they are marked by open confession
  - “Lord, forgive me....”
  - “I just sinned...”
  - “Lord, I am in constant need of your grace.”

#### Matthew 5:4

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

- As walk towards Christ, see more of Him and His glory is greater and greater while we also see our own sin and brokenness.
  - As be more sanctified and grow more in Christ:
    - Be more broken as see more of God’s holiness and my own sin.
    - Be more joyful and confident in Jesus’ promises where only dependent upon His sacrifice and righteousness.
- Observation:
  - The most profound Christians are weeping over their sin.
  - The most carnal Christians sitting back and think “I’m fine.”
- True Christians live a life of confession.
- Process of Sanctification = being more like Jesus
  - It is a bumpy road and not a genuine straight line up.
  - But genuine growth comes when one recognizes the need for Jesus Christ.
    - “Apart from Jesus, I have nothing.”
  - The only thing I have contributed to my salvation is my sin.

### **III. A Christian has a new relationship with sin as a lifestyle.**

#### 1 John 2:3-4

And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

- Before being a Christian, one has no relationship with God.
  - one has nothing to do with the commandments of God.
  - not care to study God’s Word.
  - If broke a commandment, do not care.
- If have a new relationship with God, then have a new relationship with God’s Word and with sin.
  - A Christian seeks God’s Word to seek God’s Will.
  - When miss out on God’s Word, they are convicted and mourn for having not done so.

Psalms 119:16

I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

#### **IV. A Christian wants to be like Jesus.**

1 John 2:6

whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

- Who do you want to be like?
- Do you want to be like Jesus?
  - Or instead want the applause of this world?

John 14:15

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

- From whom do you want glory and applause?
  - From men?
  - From God?

2 Corinthians 5:9

So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

#### **V. A Christian cares about God’s people and does something.**

1 John 2:7-10

Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.

- we are to love
- Previously known:
  - Love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength
  - Love neighbor as yourself
- But in Jesus, He expounded it in a new way

John 13:34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

Galatians 6:10

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

- How do you give? How do you care for God’s people?
- Something is wrong if

- Never gather with fellow Christians.
- Never in relationship with fellow Christians.
- Never focus your conversation about Jesus.
- How do you show genuine love to your brothers and sisters in Christ?

#### Matthew 25:41-45

“Then he will say to those on his left, Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’

- are we moved to love the people of God who are suffering and hurting around us and around the world?

#### Hebrews 13:3

Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.

#### **Conclusion**

You have the privilege to live for something eternal.

- How will you live?
- “He is no fool to give up what he cannot give to gain what he cannot lose.”

#### 1 John 2:17

And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.