

The Tests and Traits of True Saving Faith
I John – Part 6

I. The Tests of True Saving faith

A. A true knowledge of Christ – 1 John 2:29

1. You know “absolutely” that Jesus is righteous
2. Righteousness is an essential attribute of God
3. Thus, you know that Jesus is God
4. You have the right view of Jesus Christ – doctrinal test
5. You know “by experience” the character of true believer
6. They habitually practice righteousness
7. “is born” = a past action having a present result – having been born with the present result that you are a child by birth (regeneration) of Him

B. A true consistent conduct - 1 John 3:9

1. “is born” = same as above #7
2. Does not continually practice, not a single act, but continuous action
3. The true believer is not able to habitually sin; does not imply sinless perfection
4. Reasons why a true believer doesn't continually habitually practice sin
 - a. It is incompatible with the Law of God – verse 4
 - b. It is incompatible with the work of Christ – verse 5
 - c. It is incompatible with the ministry of the Holy Spirit – verse 6
 - d. It distinguishes the difference between a child of God and a child of the devil

C. A true exercise of love - 1 John 3:14

1. Knows absolutely that you have passed once and for all from the world's system; a past completed act with present results
2. Is evidence that you have had a change of state; the condition of death is hatred; the condition of life is love
3. Love is the pre-eminent Christian virtue; hatred of true believers reveals true color of the world; thus, true believers will hunger for Christian fellowship