

The Tests and Traits of True Saving Faith I John – Part 7

- I. Review
 - A. The traits of true saving faith
 - 1. A true knowledge of Christ – 1 John 2:29
 - 2. A true consistent conduct – 1 John 3:9
 - 3. A true exercise of love – 1 John 3:14
- II. Proof of the legitimacy of our claims – 1 John 3:11-14
 - A. Our union with Christ
 - 1. Love God
 - 2. Love others
 - 3. Love not the world
 - B. Our personal conduct
 - 1. Righteousness – obedience (v.1-10)
 - 2. Love – sacrificial (v.11-24)
 - 3. The truth about a Christian is an unalterable as the truth about Christ
- III. Characteristics of the children of the devil (v. 12-17)
 - A. Death, hatred, darkness
 - 1. Death (murder) – v.12.
 - a. Cain developed worship of God on his own terms
 - b. There was no blood sacrifice
 - 2. Hatred – v. 12-15
 - a. Only difference between hatred and murder is the act; don't murder because of the fear of consequences
 - b. It is the moral equivalent of murder – Prov. 6:17; 1 Tim 1:9
 - 3. Darkness (indifference) – v.16-17
 - a. The unconcern for others outside your own sphere
 - b. Luke 10 – The Good Samaritan

- c. We are in debt to whomever needs what we have; must question one's salvation if they are uncaring

IV. Characteristics of the children of God (v.18-24)

A. Light, love, life

1. Light – v.18
 - a. Little children (teknia = little born ones of God)
 - b. Transferred from darkness to light (Col. 1:13-14)

2. Love – v.19-22
 - a. Everything that has value in my life I will give to you
 - b. The blessings of loving
 - i. Assurance because of things we have done (v.19) – our own conduct
 - ii. Answered prayer (v.21) – no unconfessed sin (Psalm 66:7)
 - iii. Obedience to the Word (v.22) – is what pleases Him; not meritorious but expressions of gratitude; example of Jesus (John 8:29)

3. Life – v. 23-24
 - a. Abiding – feel at home with Him
 - b. Believe in Him
 - c. Love one another
 - d. Obey His commandments