

The Tests and Traits of True Saving Faith
I John – Part 1

I. Introduction

- A. Paul says “test yourselves” – 2 Cor. 13:5
- B. John writes this letter so that we will know – 1 John 5:13
- C. What are the tests and traits and how can we know?

II. I John Overview

Gospel of John

To arouse saving faith
John 20:31
Get saved
Believe
How to be
Signs to cause saving faith
Enemies – unbelieving Jews
Doubting Jesus was the Christ
Doubted His deity

Epistle of 1 John

To assure saving faith
1 John 5:13
Are saved
Know
How to know
Signs to confirm saving faith
Enemies – professing Christians
Doubting the Christ was Jesus
Doubted His humanity

III. Content of the book of I John

A. The contrast of “Truth versus error” so that we will learn “How to know ”

B. 7 Contrasts

1. Light vs. darkness – 1 John 1: 5 – 2:11
2. Father vs. world – 1 John 2:12 – 2:17
3. Christ vs. antichrist – 1 John 2:28 – 2:28
4. Good works vs. evil works – 1 John 2:29 – 3:24
5. Holy Spirit vs. error – 1 John 4:1 – 4:6
6. Love vs. pretense – 1 John 4:7 – 4:21
7. True believer vs. false believer – 1 John 5:1 – 5:21

C. 7 Reasons why the book was written

1. To establish basis for fellowship – 1 John 1:3
2. To add to their joy – 1 John 1:4
3. To keep them from sin – 1 John 2:1
4. To warn about false teachers – 1 John 2:13-17
5. To expose characteristics of antichrist – 1 John 2:21-24
6. To strengthen their faith – 1 John 2:26
7. To assure them of eternal life – 1 John 5:13

IV. The Message of the Gospel

A. The Character of the Gospel (v. 1-4)

1. Stable - not changed (v.1)
2. Sensible - to be experienced (v.1)
3. Shared - to be given away (v.2)
4. Source - of fellowship (v.3)
5. Symbol - of joy (v.4)

B. The Content of the Gospel (v. 5-10)

1. The holiness of God (v.5)
2. The sinfulness of man (v.6-8)
3. The need for a Savior (v.9-10)

V. Seven Tests of True (Genuine) Saving Faith -

A. Proper belief + Proper obedience = Proper Love

B. Doctrinal test + Moral Test = Social Test

C. If you say you do and you do, you are; if you say you do and you don't, you're not

D. Tests of genuine faith (true believer)

2. False fellowship – not honest with others – 1 John 1:6
3. False sanctity – not honest with ourselves – 1 John 1:8
4. False righteousness – not honest with God – 1 John 1:10
5. False allegiance – not honest with Christ – 1 John 2:4
6. False behavior – not honest with the world – 1 John 2:6
7. False spirituality – not honest with brothers and sisters – 1 John 2:9
8. False love to God – not honest to all – 1 John 4:20

Moral test = proper obedience

Social test = proper love

Doctrinal test = proper belief