

Fellowship With God – 1 John 1

Introduction

- What do we have in common with each other?
 - Age bracket
 - Geographic location
 - Hobbies
 - Specific likes and dislikes
 - Personalities
 - Commitments to organizations
 - Faith in God
- With some we feel like we have nothing in common
 - Someone once said you and I are just not on the same page together
 - Someone else replied – you two are not even in the same library
- The word that we find in Scripture that talks about what we have in common is the word fellowship
- The apostle John speaks about our fellowship in verse three
1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

I. The Source of Fellowship

1 John 1:1-3 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

A. Jesus – the Word of Life – who was from the beginning

1. Jesus had no beginning, He has always been

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

2. Jesus did have a beginning when He came to this earth as flesh
John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.
- B. John's eyewitness account of what he had heard and seen himself
 1. Saw with his eyes
 2. Looked upon – took a closer look
 3. Hands have handled – close relationship

II. The Need for Fellowship

1 John 1:3-5 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

A. Fellowship defined

1. What is fellowship?
 - a) That which we have in common
 - b) The closeness of a relationship
 - c) Communication, partnership
 - d) Cooperation, participation
2. Who should we have fellowship with?
 - a) Fellowship with each other
 - b) Fellowship with God

B. Joy desired

1. Happiness depends on what happens
2. Joy comes within as a fruit of the Spirit
Psalm 51:12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.
Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

C. Light vs darkness

1. There is no fellowship between light and darkness
2. God is light in Him is no darkness

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

III. The Hindrance to Fellowship

1 John 1:6-10 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that 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 that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

A. If we walk in darkness

Psalm 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

1. Then we do not have fellowship with God
2. Then we are liars

B. If we walk in the light

1. Then we have fellowship with one another
2. Then our sin has been cleansed by Jesus' blood
 - a) The blood is sufficient to cleanse
 - b) The blood continues to cleanse

C. If we say we have no sin

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 7:18-20 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

1. Then we deceive ourselves
 - a) Sin is universal – we are all sinners
 - b) Sin is attractive – we are all tempted
 - c) Sin is the default – we tend to go there
2. Then the truth is not in us

- D. If we confess our sins
 - 1. Jesus is faithful to forgive us
 - 2. Jesus will cleanse us

- E. If we say we have not sinned

Hebrews 12:5-11 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

- 1. Then God is a liar
- 2. Then God's Word is not in us

Conclusion

- Recognize God's holiness – no darkness in Him
- Admit our sin

Psalm 51:3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.
- Confess our sin

Hebrews 10:17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.
Psalm 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.
- Restoration of fellowship

Psalm 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and a right spirit within me.

Knowing Christ 1 John 2

Introduction

- Chapter 1 discussed the need for Fellowship with God
- We are reminded that God is light and in Him is no darkness
- We are reminded that our sin breaks that fellowship
- Confession of sin is necessary and forgiveness is promised
- Chapter 2 encourages us to remain in Fellowship with God

I. Do You Know Christ?

A. Don't choose sin, but when you sin, there is forgiveness

1 John 2:1-2 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

- 1.** An advocate is the one called alongside to help, the one who pleases your cause, the intercessor
- 2.** An atonement (propitiation, sacrifice) has been made – Jesus death has paid the penalty for our sins and satisfied God's wrath

B. Our obedience to Christ demonstrates our love for Him

1 John 2:3-6 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

- 1.** Motivations for obedience
 - a)** Because you have to – servant
 - b)** Because you need to – employee
 - c)** Because you want to – Christian
- 2.** Evidences of obedience
 - a)** Love of God is perfected – come to maturity and completion
 - b)** Abiding – staying close and connected, total dependence upon Him

II. Do You Love One Another?

A. The commandment is emphasized

1 John 2:7 Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.

1. This was not a new commandment – he was just emphasizing this commandment
2. Obeying Christ will naturally produce a love for one another

B. Christ was our example of loving one another

1 John 2:8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

1. Jesus loved all people regardless of their race, status or sin
2. Jesus loved even his enemies

C. Loving one another is more than just words – it takes action

1 John 2:9-11 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

1. You can say that you love someone – but your actions may show the contrary
2. Walking in the light keeps the road clearly visible to avoid mishaps – walking in disobedience is walking in darkness and will lead easily stumbling

III. Do you Love the World?

A. The command is comprehensive

1. To all believers – little children

1 John 2:12 I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

- a) Teachers who are addressing their students
- b) Mature Christians addressing younger Christians

2. To Fathers

1 John 2:13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye

have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

- a) Fathers although older still need this truth themselves
- b) Fathers should know this truth because they will teach it to their children

3. To young men

1 John 2:14 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

- a) Young men who have overcome the temptation to sin
- b) Young men who are strong and the Word of God remains in them

4. To little children

- a) Specifically speaking about infants and little children
- b) Even little children can know about their Heavenly Father

B. The command is given

1 John 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

1. Do not love the world

- a) He is not speaking of planet earth
- b) He is not speaking of the inhabitants of the world
- c) He is speaking of the world's system of ideas and philosophies

2. The world is the world of Satan – of darkness

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

3. Worldliness steals away our love for the Father

- a) Anything in a Christian's life that takes the place of loving the Father
- b) Anything in a Christian's life that hinders us from doing the will of the Father

4. Three traps of the world
 - a) Lust of the flesh
 - (1) The misuse of the natural desires of the body
 - (2) Sin can ruin the normal desires for hunger, sleep or intimacy
 - b) Lust of the eyes
 - (1) The eyes are a gateway to the mind
 - (2) Sin causes us to begin to think in accordance to the world
 - c) Pride of life
 - (1) The desire to impress others
 - (2) The desire to be noticed

IV. Do You Know the Truth?

A. The seriousness of the matter

1 John 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

1. We are living in the last days leading up to the return of Christ
2. The antichrist will be revealed during the tribulation but until then there are many antichrists who teach false doctrine

B. There are counterfeit Christians

1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

1. These teachers may have been part of a church
2. They are not true believers

C. There are some who deny that Jesus is God

1 John 2:20-25 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.

1. True believers will not deny that Jesus was God – they have the Spirit of God teaching them
 2. You cannot separate Jesus from the Father
 3. When a new truth is revealed that is different than what has been taught for generations – beware
- D. There are some who desire to deceive you
- 1 John 2:26-29** These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.
1. We can easily be deceived when an imitation is laid next to the truth
 2. We must depend upon the Holy Spirit to reveal to us the truth
 3. To abide in Christ means to remain in fellowship, to stay connected
 4. We will not be ashamed at His appearing if we abide in the truth

Conclusion

- Do you know Christ – are you in close fellowship with Him – are you obeying His commandments?
- Do you show your love to one another – loving God means that we will show our love to one another
- Do you love the world more than God? What has taken the place of God in our lives?
- Do you know the truth? The Bible is our guide

Children of God – 1 John 3

Introduction

- In chapter 1, John discusses the need for fellowship with God, obedience to God's commands and confession of sin is needed to restore fellowship
- In chapter 2, John discusses loving God, loving one another and not loving the world
- In chapter 3, John discusses our love for God will direct us to demonstrate love toward one another

I. God the Father Loves Us (1-3)

A. What we have become – the sons and daughters of God (family)

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

1. Consider the incredible love that God has shown us

- a) More than the love of a parent for a child
- b) More than the love of a husband and wife
- c) More than the love of a child to a parent
- d) More than the love a sibling for a sibling
- e) More than the love of a friend for a friend

2. Consider being a part of God's family as a child

- a) You can be born into a family – we are born again
- b) You can be adopted into a family – we have been adopted
- c) You can marry into a family – we are the bride of Christ

B. What we will become – we will be like Him

1 John 3:2-3 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

- 1.** We are presently the children of God
- 2.** It is a mystery of what are spiritual bodies will be like
- 3.** We know that our body will be like His glorious body
- 4.** We will see Him for ourselves
- 5.** The hope of his return and knowing we shall see Him should remind us to remain pure

II. God the Son Died for Us (4-10)

A. We are all sinners

1 John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

1. The law was given to define sin
2. We tend to not admit sin because we have not admitted that our actions are sinful

B. Jesus took away our sins

1 John 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

1. Jesus came to this earth to save sinners
2. What a contrast between sinners and Him who knew no sin

C. Abiding in Christ means that we will not practice sin

1 John 3:6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

1. He is not talking about sinless perfection – we all have a sin nature
2. He is differentiating between the occasional sin versus deliberate, habitual sin
3. A road may be designated north or south but occasionally it does veer east and west – but the overall direction is consistent with its markings – a Christian will sin occasionally but his overall direction should be abiding in Christ and obedience to His commands
4. It is a difficult situation to determine whether someone is a backslidden Christian versus someone who never became a believer
5. Sin for a believer should bring regret and lead us to confession and forgiveness

D. Knowing God means that we will serve and obey Him

1 John 3:7-8 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

1. A true believer should want to obey God
2. There is a contrast between Christ who knew no sin and the devil who can do nothing but sin
3. Jesus came to earth to defeat the devil

E. A child of God will not practice sin

1 John 3:9-10 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

1. The idea is not that a believer cannot ever sin but because of new life in Christ he is no longer a sinner
2. Children of God desire to please their Father while children of the devil serve Satan
3. An important part of knowing Christ is loving one another

III. We Are to Love One Another (11-24)

A. The command to love one another

1 John 3:11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

1. Biblical languages described love in a variety of ways
 - a) Phileo love is a caring, kind love among friends and family
 - b) Eros is a passionate love between a husband and a wife
 - c) Stergo was a natural love for parents and their children
 - d) Agapao is the love that expresses God's love for us
2. The love mentioned here is the highest degree of love that should be demonstrated

B. Examples of failure to love

1. A murderer – Cain killed his brother

1 John 3:12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

- a) Cain's works were based on his own efforts
- b) Abel's sacrifice was based on faith

2. Hatred – equal to murder

1 John 3:13-15 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

- a) The world hated Jesus who had the truth
- b) The world today may hate us when we share the truth

c) Jesus equated hatred with murder

Matthew 5:21-22 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

C. Failing to express love

1 John 3:16-17 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

1. Our love for others should be motivated by the fact that God loved us so much that his Son sacrificed Himself for us
2. This speaks of that sacrificial love that we are to demonstrate to others
3. The love of God must be demonstrated and expressed to others – it is a visible love

D. Christian love

1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

- a) The heart can be moved and we can talk about things
- b) True love affects the heart and our actions

E. Sincere Heart

1. Demonstrating love reinforces and assures our love for Christ
1 John 3:19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.
2. Failure to demonstrate love reminds us of our failures, but God is greater than our feelings of guilt
1 John 3:20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.
3. Demonstrating love gives us confidence in prayer
1 John 3:21-22 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

Conclusion

1 John 3:23-24 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

- Believe on Jesus Christ
- Love one another
- Keep His commandments
- We have been given the Holy Spirit

God is Love – 1 John 4-5

I. Be Sure You Have the Truth

A. Spirit of truth

1. Believers are indwelled by the Holy Spirit of God

1 John 3:24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

2. Not every spirit is the Holy Spirit

1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

- a) We must use discernment in what we hear, what we read and what we are taught
- b) We must realize that there are false teachers claiming to have the truth of God

B. Test the spirits

1 John 4:2-3 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

1. True teaching will always confess that Jesus Christ was God come in the flesh
2. There are many who teach that Jesus was a good person but deny that He was and is God

C. Spirit of error

1 John 4:4-6 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

1. The spirit of error is of the world and believed by much of the world
2. Those who were of the world also denied the apostles' teaching
3. We have the Spirit of God which is the truth and is greater than anything that the world has to offer

II. Remember You Have God's Love

A. To know God is to demonstrate love

1 John 4:7-8 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

1. Those who have been born again and know God will naturally want to express love to others
2. If we don't love one another then we should question whether or not we really know God

B. God demonstrated His love to us

1 John 4:9-10 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1. God showed His love by sacrificing His own Son for our sins
2. God did not express love to us because we did anything to be deserving of that love

C. Others should see God's love in us

1 John 4:11-13 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

1. The Holy Spirit helps us demonstrate that perfect love
2. The Holy Spirit is evidence of our relationship with Him

D. We are reminded that God sent Jesus to be our Savior

1 John 4:14-16 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

E. The Holy Spirit strengthens our limited ability to love

1 John 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

F. Perfect love does not allow for fear

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

G. You can't love God without loving others

1 John 4:19-21 We love him, because he first loved us. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

III. What Do We Know For Sure

A. Believing in Jesus is to be born again

1 John 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

B. Loving others is evidence of loving God and obeying His commandments

1 John 5:2-3 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. (unreasonable)

C. Born again believers can overcome the world

1 John 5:4-5 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

D. Jesus is and was God – three proofs

1 John 5:6-10 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

- 1.** The witness at Jesus' baptism – the Father said He was well pleased in His beloved Son

2. The witness of Jesus' shed blood on the cross – surely this was the Son of God

3. The witness of the indwelling Spirit of God in us

E. Believers can know that they have eternal life

1 John 5:11-13 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

F. Believers can have confidence in knowing God hears our prayers

1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

G. Christians should not practice sin – sin is serious

1 John 5:16-19 If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it. All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death. We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not. And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

Sin unto death – believers who sin causes a premature death – Ananias and Sapphira

H. We can know Christ

1 John 5:20-21 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.