

WELCOME TO  
**THE ROAD.TV LIVE**  
**CHURCH**  
**WHERE YOU ARE**

**8.2.20**

**THE CONFIDENCE QUESTION**

**I John 5:13—21**

**INTRODUCTION: The Confidence Question—I John 5:13—21**

We started this study by trying to answer the question “How Do I Measure Up?” The challenge was to take an honest look at our lives and see where we are in our spiritual journey. John was unquestionably the closest disciple to Jesus. He was the man who transitioned from the Son of Thunder to the Beloved Disciple. He laid his head on the chest of Jesus at the last supper. He was given charge of Jesus' mother when Jesus was on the cross.

John's goal is to give us the simple, simple, simple truth of what it looks like to be a follower of Jesus. There are 4 basic truths that emerge as we have worked our way through this book. Let's read together I John 5:13-21 and then let's jump into our study. The goal of the end of this series and this message is that we have confidence in our relationship with Jesus.

**HOW DO I KNOW?**

As we begin to wrap up, remember the Bible is a mirror to look at our own life, not binoculars to look at others. This starts with me.

There are four themes that are restated in different ways through these 5 chapters. Each of these themes are written so that we can have confidence about our relationship with God and our eternal home. There are 2 sides to each of these issues—one side brings confidence, one side brings question. If you are struggling with questions about your relationship with God, then you may be on the wrong side of these themes.

**I. The life I live brings confidence or question.** As much as we would like to think that how we live doesn't affect our eternal security, it does. As I looked back over this passage I saw three stages John is trying to get us to see that we pass through as we follow Jesus.

Basic Morality—John 1:5-6. You remember we dealt with this issue in week one of our study. Light is equated with goodness in scripture and what John is challenging is to grasp is the goodness of God. In Him is no darkness at all. Darkness is evil, wrong. John goes on to say that the first step in our journey to follow Jesus is to be morally good. John says that if we walk in darkness we do not know God. No matter what you say, no matter what you know, if you are morally corrupt you are living in darkness and do not know God. But there is more to following Jesus than just being good...

Ask and discuss: What does it mean to walk in the light?

Answer: In the New Testament, “walking in the light” is directly related to following Jesus, who said, “I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life” (John 8:12).

To “walk” is, in short, to live one's life. One's lifestyle or way of life can be considered a “walk.”

“Walking in the light” means we consider Jesus as “the light” in this world, and we “walk” in that



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light by following His precepts, living in His power, and growing in His grace.

Pleasing God—I John 2:3-4. As we grow in our relationship with God and begin to understand how much God loves us there is a desire in our hearts to please God. How do we please God? We keep His commandments. Jesus said in John 14:15 if you love me keep my commandments. This is beyond simple right and wrong—this is where Jesus begins to take us further than we would have ever gone on our own. We are moving from the letter of the law to the intent of the law. This is where following begins to get tough. We are no longer content to not commit adultery, now we cannot live with lust in our hearts. It's not enough to say I haven't killed anyone, now I am dealing with the hatred in my heart.

Ask and discuss: What Commandments Is John Speaking of?

Answer: Jesus answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37) The command to love God and love others encompasses all Ten Commandments.

Desiring God. I John 2:15 So we start with basic morality, move to the desire to please God, then we end with a desire for God. We no longer love the world nor the things of the world, now our lives are fueled by a desire to simply know and love the Father. We want God more than anything this world has to offer.

Ask and discuss: What does it mean that we are not to love the world?

Answer: In the Bible, the term world can refer to the earth and physical universe, (Hebrews 1:2; John 13:1) but it most often refers to the humanistic system that is at odds with God. (Matthew 18:7; John 15:19; I John 4:5).

## **2. My understanding of God brings confidence or question.**

Listen carefully to how I am phrasing this—it's not just knowing the truth about God, it is really understanding and believing the truth about God. When we really begin to believe what we already know then we live with confidence. So what does John tell us about God 1:5—God is good and there no bad/evil in Him at all. This is foundational to everything else we believe about God. This determines how we view God when the wheels fly off of life. Do I know the truth or do I believe this truth? You don't really know if you believe until the wheels fly off.

John tells us in 2:2 and 3:5 Jesus died to pay for my sins. What an incredible love God must have for us. John follows that up in 3:1—Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us!!! It's hard to believe. Stop right here and tell you that sin promises you what only God can provide. Every time you and I choose sin, we are looking for something that only God can provide—we are looking for the quick fix. There is no quick fix.

Take a moment and look at 4:16—we know and have come to believe the love which God has for us. Did you catch that —the growth from knowledge to belief? That is what John is trying to make happen in our lives.

Ask and discuss: What does John mean by abiding in God and God abiding in us? Is it an intimate second stage of Christianity or is it just plain being a Christian?



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Answer: Jesus said in John 15:6, "If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned." Abiding in Christ does not refer to a second level of maturity. It refers to whether you are in the vine or in the fire.

"No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us."

Ask and discuss: How can you be sure of a relationship with a God you can't see?

Answer: We can be sure of our relationship with him because the love we have for each other is the very presence of God in us. God abides in us. And since God is love, his presence in us is the perfecting or completing of his love in our love for each other.

Ask and discuss: Are you sure that God abides in you today?

### **3. My attitude toward sin brings confidence or question.**

There are 2 super simple truths I want you to see here, both from scripture. The first is in 1:8—if we say we have no sin we are deceiving ourselves. Sin keeps me from being real with myself and others. Who is the real me? We work so hard to be something we are not—We tell others and ourselves we are way better than we really are. Take a second look at your own life and realize you are lying about something in your life to yourself and to others. Only when we accept that what the Bible says about our lives is true can we begin to be real. Until then I am imprisoned by the lies I am telling myself and others. Here is how John says we introduce ourselves—Hi, my name is Rick and I am a sinner.

Ask and discuss: Is John teaching us in 3:6 that we can be sinless?

Answer: He teaches that although believers will sin, lawlessness will not define their lives. Jesus came to take away sin (v. 5) — both its guilt and finally its presence by His death and resurrection. However, this latter work of sanctification is finished in our glorification and not beforehand (v. 2).

**Sin separates me from God—2:4, 3:6, 3:9.** Over and over John tells us sin separates us from God. 2:4 If we do not keep his commandments we do not know him. 3:6 if we sin we do not know him. Repeated over and over. **If I am created for relationships with God and others sin keeps me from truly knowing either. To choose sin is to work against the best life God can give you.**

**4. My love for others will bring confidence or question.** The fourth area which brings confidence or question to our lives is how we relate to other people. I want you to listen to this—especially in this crazy world in which we live. If we live with hatred in our lives we have twisted the message of the gospel. 1 John 2:9-10. If we tell people we are believers and have hatred in our lives—we are twisting the very truth of the gospel.

Look at 3:14—we know, say it with me, we know we have eternal life because we love the brethren. He who does not love, abides in death. The gospel message is so simple. How do I know I love the brethren—Look at verses 17-18— I demonstrated my love in measurable ways. I



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love in more than words. I give my life, my time, my money in loving people. Then John wraps it all up and puts a bow on it 4:8—if you do not love, you do not know God.

**Ask and discuss:** How does the fact that God loves you result in your loving others?

**Answer:** The new birth creates the connection between God's love for us and our love for each other. The new birth is the act of the Holy Spirit connecting our dead, selfish hearts with God's living, loving heart so that His life becomes our life and His love becomes our love.

**CONFIDENT CHRISTIAN LIVING WILL CHANGE MY PRAYER LIFE—I JOHN 5:14-15**

John closes the book with a short statement about prayer and the world in which we live.

**Ask and discuss:** Do you get all you want from God?

**Answer:** There are people who will tell you that if you have enough faith, live a good enough life, that every prayer you pray will be answered. If they are not answered, something is wrong with you. So why didn't God answer Jesus' prayer to take this cup away from Him? Because there is something that trumps my prayers—it's God's Will.

What John is trying to get us to see is that our prayer should line up with the will of God. As simply as I know how put this—Our prayers should line up with the will of God. In practical terms that means that we would be praying for what Jesus would pray for, that our lives are being lived like Jesus. When we are praying in line with the will of God then we can pray with confidence.

Here is the bottom line of the will of God, the will of God will bring Glory to God, Glory to God will always benefit me. Now the last point....

**WE ARE STRANGERS ON THIS EARTH WHO WILL ONE DAY GO HOME—I JOHN 5:18-21.** Never a more appropriate ending to a series for times like these than this. Look at verse 19—you wonder what's behind the craziness that is happening—The evil one. One of the greatest realizations a follower of Jesus will ever make is that this will never be heaven. The Evil One is having his way on this earth.

**You are a child and the Father will protect you—v. 18.**

You and I are strangers in this world. This verse is an incredible promise—we are living in enemy territory. We are behind the lines. Here is God's promise to you—you are mine I will keep and protect you. I want you to see that picture of a child who is afraid—of anything, the dark, a strange place, loud noises—but when the father is present, when the father can reach down and take them in his arms—they are safe. What changed? It's still dark, still strange, still loud. You are in the arms of one bigger than all that—that is our spiritual promise.

In the end we win. When the dust of this life settles, those who have followed Jesus will inherit a life of quality and quantity that is described with the words eternal life. A place of perfect relationship, a place where the struggle of sin is over, a place where we can finally fully do what we were created to do—live in relationship with God.