

That You May Know

This is the Testimony of God — 1 John 5:6-12
June 23, 2019

Those who receive the testimony of God concerning his Son have the Son and eternal life found in him; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have eternal life.

I. ONE TESTIMONY (vv. 6, 9, 11)

- The testimony of God concerns his Son, Jesus Christ, and the gift of eternal life that is found in him.
 - The noun “testimony” and the verb “testify” are found eight times in 1 John 5:6-12 (10 times in Greek), so listen up!

II. TWO TRAILS (vv. 9-10, 12)

- “Whoever has the Son has life...”
 - Only those who believe in the Son of God truly have the Son, and only those who truly have the Son have life.
- “Whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”
 - Those who do not believe in the Son of God do not have the life that is found in the Son, and, worse yet, make God out to be a liar.
- “...the testimony of God is greater...”
 - If we receive the testimony of men, who vacillate in their own truthfulness, surely we should receive the testimony of the God of truth.

III. THREE THAT TESTIFY (vv. 6-8)

- That water, the blood, and the Spirit all testify to the testimony of God concerning his Son, Jesus Christ.
 - The water—a reference to the baptism of the Son of God, who was the Christ before and after his baptism (cf. John 1:26, 31, 33).
 - The blood—a reference to the crucifixion of the Son of God, who was the Christ before, during, and after his crucifixion (cf. 1 John 1:7; Rev. 1:5).

- The Spirit – a reference to the Holy Spirit’s work in testifying to the historical truth of God the Son incarnate, Jesus Christ, and his work in testifying to that truth subjectively in our hearts (cf. John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13).

IV. FOUR TRUTHS (vv. 6-12)

- Having right doctrine matters and pursuing it is of inestimable worth.
- Our response to the testimony of God concerning his Son is of incalculable importance.
- The call to participate in testifying to the saving work of God in Christ is a source of incredible confidence.
- The reality of having the Son by grace through faith produces infinite joy and immeasurable gratitude.

Suggested Reading:

Knowing Christ, Mark Jones

The Whole Christ, Sinclair Ferguson

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read 1 John 5:6-12

1. When you think of testimonies, or testimonials, or testifying to something, what thoughts come to mind?
2. Why is John so intentional on hammering home the reality of the testimony of God concerning his Son?
3. In what ways does the triple testimony of the water, the blood, and the Spirit point to the reality of who the Son of God, Jesus Christ, is?
4. Is there anyone in your life today who has not believed the testimony of God concerning his Son? If so, please stop your discussion here and pray for them, asking that the Lord would open blind eyes and soften hard hearts so that they might receive the gospel of Jesus Christ.
5. Right doctrine should lead to sound doxology (i.e., words of praise) to our God. Take some time and talk through the connection between right doctrine and praise, and why this connection is important.
6. Spend some time considering the reality of union with Christ by grace through faith. Discuss some of the many blessings that flow to us through Christ and through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.