

DOUBT (2)

Am I a real Christian?

1 John 5:1-13

⁵ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶ This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷ For there are three that testify:⁸ the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. ⁹ If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son.

¹⁰ Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

Intro

- not sure – and won't get in
- not sure – but will get in
- sure – but won't get in
- sure – and will get in ¹

The Work of the Son

- saved by Christ's work ²
- not saved by my works ³
 - o no assurance
 - o false assurance
 - o weak assurance

The Word of the Father

- testimony ⁴
- promise ⁵
- feelings
- sacraments

The Witness of the Spirit

- internal ⁶
- external ⁷



Discussion questions

Which of the four categories in the introduction do you think you are in? What do you need to do? What is your main take-home from this talk?

² John 19:30; Hebrews 10:12; Romans 3:24-25; Ephesians 1:3; 1 John 5:12; 1 Timothy 1:15

³ Galatians 2:16; Luke 18:9-14

⁴ 1 John 5:10

⁵ Romans 4:20-21; Hebrews 6:19

⁶ Romans 8:15-16

⁷ Galatians 5:22; James 2:17; 1 John 3:7,10,14; Matthew 7:21-23; 2 Corinthians 13:5

¹ 1 John 5:13; Colossians 4:12