

Love Made New
Love God, Love Others, Discern the Spirits
1 John 5:13-21
September 25

13I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. **14**And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. **15**And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him. **16**If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God^a will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. **17**All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death. **18**We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. **19**We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. **20**And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. **21**Little children, keep yourselves from idols. 1 John 5:13-21

The Power of Knowing

1. Give an example of a time your knowledge in something was limited and caused you anxiety, but in time you grew in your knowledge and became comfortable enough that the anxiety disappeared.
2. Discuss the three assurances John gives us in 1 John 5:13-15 (Assurance of eternal life, that God hears us, and that God gives us what we ask when we ask according to His will.)
3. Discuss the importance of beginning small when pursuing matters of faith. Use Mark 4:30-32 and Luke 17:5-6 as guides.

Love and Concern for the Family of Faith

4. Discuss why love for one another will involve being concerned and praying about repentance from known sin.
5. Discuss why if a person dogmatically refuses to repent of sin and is teaching heresy of which they refuse to repent this is characterized as a “sin that leads to death.” Use Matthew 18:15-17 and 1 John 5:17-18 as a guide.
6. Discuss the important of repentance in maintaining Godly relationships. Use Luke 17:3-4, 1 John 5:16, and Matthew 10:14 as guides.

Discern, Discern, Discern

7. John’s closing discussion centers around ways to prevent them from falling victim to false teachers again. Discuss why knowing the basic truth that **“We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one”** is important in developing our sense of discernment.
8. Discuss the knowledge the Son gives us and how it will change the way we see life and the way we live. Use 1 John 5:20 as a guide.
9. Discuss how idolatry is at the root of every heresy and why John closes with the command to keep ourselves from idols.