



BEREAN
SMALL GROUPS

FOR THE GOSPEL
ROMANS 1:16

TRUE: 1 John

1 John 5:13-21

Read 1 John 5:13-21 together:

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. And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. 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.

If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God 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. All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

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.

We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

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. Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

Overview

- ? Who is the author of 1 John?
- ? When was 1 John written?
- ? To whom was 1 John written?
- ? Why was 1 John written?
- ? Why do these details matter?
- ? What is truth?
- ? What is the prevailing spirit of American culture?

An Eyewitness Account

- ? How did John experience so much intimacy with Jesus? What was the result?
- ? Can you experience the same intimacy with Jesus even though he's not physically present? Why or why not? If yes, how?
- ? John was an evangelist (John 20:31). Is God calling you to increase your evangelistic efforts?
- ? Do you think the amount of time John spent with Jesus impacted his desire and ability to declare the gospel?
- ? Is neglecting to share the gospel a sin of omission?

The Community of Believers

- ? In what ways is the Church a unique community?
- ? What are some ways the Church can remain a unique community rather than be conformed to the world?
- ? Why was the early church called a disease? Are you infectious?
- ? Would you welcome persecution if it meant church growth? Think about loss of personal freedom, possessions, careers, relationships, reputation, etc.
- ? John affirms the life-giving power of prayer. Jesus said, *"My house shall be called a house of prayer."* How come so few people seem to be praying before and after corporate worship services?
- ? *"Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks"* (Proverbs 1:20-21).

Is there still a place in today's church for street preaching? Or, have we become inoculated by American culture?

Truth in Action

- ? Satan seeks to deceive the Church. How can you protect yourself and others from being deceived?
- ? The whole world lies in the power of the Evil One. Many souls will perish without the work of the Church. What are some ways you can get the gospel to the unchurched masses?
- ? What hinders you from sharing the gospel with one person each day (a reasonable goal)? Resolve by God's grace to put your hindrances aside and get to work.
- ? Do you know the real Jesus? Christ died to save sinners and was raised from the dead on the third day. There are no good people in Heaven, only forgiven people. Abandon trusting in your own good works. Turn from your sins and trust in Christ and Christ alone.

“Yet, surely, there must be some who will fling aside the (cowardly) love of peace, and speak out for our Lord and for His truth. A craven spirit is upon man, and their tongues are paralyzed. Oh, for an outburst of true faith and holy zeal.”

- Charles Spurgeon