

Learn

Sermon discussion: What stood out to you from the sermon on Sunday?

(Leaders: Feel free to develop and ask any question from sermon material here, and regularly emphasize this as a time to share insights learned, challenging/helpful content)

John says in v. 7-8 that the Spirit, the water, and the blood all agree. What is John trying to get at when he says they “agree”?

(They declare with one voice about who Jesus is. Water {baptism} and Blood {death on cross} were part of Jesus’ earthly life, and the Spirit still testifies in agreement today about Jesus)

What does it mean that God has given (or “borne”) testimony concerning his Son?

(When you give testimony it is a legally binding claim of truth. It’s like “sticking your neck out there” to declare something true. God is staking his reputation on Jesus being the Savior of the world)

How would you put the testimony of God into your own words from v. 9-11?

(Encourage multiple people to put it into their words. One example: God the Father has declared that Jesus is his Son, and that whoever believes in Jesus as Savior has eternal life)

Practice

How can your faith in Christ “overcome the world”? (v. 4-5)

(We have the power to say no to sin and yes to God; We can remain faithful in any suffering, knowing God cares for us; We fight the right battles – not against people, but against the kingdom of darkness (Eph 6:10-17); We focus on eternity over this world/life)

John declares that as a Christian you “have life” (v. 11-12). Discuss a few practical ways we should be different from those who do not “have life”.

(Live with confidence in God’s love and acceptance of us through Jesus; display genuine joy in God despite our circumstances, grow in bold, worshipful prayer)

Change

John hammers home his point about loving one another in v. 1-2 yet again. What is 1 measurable, tangible way you can grow in loving someone this week?

John qualifies the fact that we keep God’s commandments with “And his commandments are not burdensome” in verse 3. In what way have you had a tendency to see God’s commands as a burden? Pray together that as a group, you would delight in God’s commands and his Word.