


Gospel of Grace
FELLOWSHIP

1 John 4:14-16
Confessing and Abiding
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June 4, 2017

Eyewitness Testimony

1 John 4:14a (NASB)
We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son

- The apostles truly saw Christ (1Jn 1:1)
- 2Peter 1:16 also claims that the apostles were eyewitnesses of the Incarnate Christ
- The Son preexisted with the Father and is the pre-eminent, unique Son of God (Heb. 1:2-3)

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Savior of the World

1 John 4:14b (NASB)
to be the Savior of the world

- Savior is one who rescues from peril or destruction
- Jesus saves by taking away sins (John 1:29; 1John 3:5)
- The scope of Messianic salvation is the whole world

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Confess Christ and Abide in God

1 John 4:15 (NASB)

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

- Confession must be based on true doctrine
- Confessing is the test of spirits (1Jn 4:2, 3)
- Confessing and abiding demonstrate true fellowship with God

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Chiasm in the Greek

- A. God
- B. Confessor
- C. Abides
- B'. Confessor
- A'. God

Three Qualities of Those Who Abide

- Faith (1John 3:23)
- Obedience (1John 2:5; 3:24)
- Love (1John 4:11,12, 16)

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Knowing and Believing God's Love

1 John 4:16a (NASB)

We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us.

- This settled conviction will not change no matter what transpires
- The apostles stayed when others left (John 6:68, 69)
- God's love does not vacillate

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Abiding in God Who Is Love

1 John 4:16b (NASB)

God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

- This love is God's love that He has shown in His Son
- Abiding is thematic in John and 1John
- This is comprehensive: God's love for us, Our love for God, Our love for one another

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Implications and Applications

- We must confess objective truth
- Our faith must have theological content
- God is the Savior
- Salvation is not limited by geography or ethnicity

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We Must Confess Christ

John 12:42, 43 (NASB)

Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.

- Secret faith is not saving faith
- Confessing Christ is the test of spirits (1Jn 4:2, 3)

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We Must Believe True Doctrine

2John 1:9 (NASB)

Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

- The truth about Christ has been given once for all; going beyond it is not “progress”
- “The teaching” is teaching about the person and work of Christ

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God Is Savior of the Humble

Luke 1:46, 47 (NASB)

And Mary said: “My soul exalts the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.”

- Mary is shown as a reliable witness in Luke
- God saves the humble and puts down the proud (Luke 1:52)
- God remembers His promises and shows mercy (Luke 1:54, 55)

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God Is Savior of the World

Isaiah 45:21b, 22 (NASB)

And there is no other God besides Me, A righteous God and a Savior; There is none except Me. Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other.

- God is “righteous” and Savior as seen by His work through the Son
- The requirements for salvation are about turning to God by faith on His terms

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