

Evidence of True Faith

1 John 2:3-11

How we affirm our faith. | John 2:3-7

- **We know that we know Jesus.** | John 2:3
"By this we know that we have come to know Him if we keep His commandments"

Know = ginosko, Gnosticism

| John 5:13

- **We keep His commandments.** | John 2:4
"The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him"

John 14:15, 21, 23-24

- **The love of God is being perfected.** | John 2:5
"But whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him"

- **We abide in Christ to live like Christ.** | John 2:6
"The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked."

John 15:2, 10 (learn more from Digging Deeper on back side)

How we act in our faith. | John 2:8-11

- **We reveal growth in both words and deeds by moving from "darkness" into the "light" of Jesus.**
| John 2:8-9; John 8:12
"On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining. The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now."
- **We love people to help others avoid failure.** | John 2:10
"The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him"
- **We recognize the destructive nature of hatred and turn from it.** | John 2:11
"But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes"
 - Hate causes us to lose hope. *"is in the darkness"*
 - Hate prevents growth and purpose in life. *"walks in the darkness and does not know where he is going"*
 - Hate blinds us to the truth. *"darkness has blinded his eyes"*

Digging Deeper:

The Apostle John was concerned for the people of Asia Minor (Turkey) and if their faith was real. There were many false teachers misleading the believers so they did not believe that Jesus was fully man. Gnosticism emphasizes the spiritual realm and considers the material world evil. Therefore it is unthinkable that Jesus would have a human body. As a result, some may not have true faith. And those that claim they do have true faith do not always act as if their faith in Christ is real. I John 2:6 tells us to “abide” in Jesus and live like Jesus. To examine that aspect more closely, below are some principles from John’s gospel in chapter 15 on what it means to abide in Jesus. Read John 15 and review these principles to determine how they are true in your life, to reflect a true faith in Christ.

LifeGroup Discussion: Read John 15 and respond to the questions below.

To Abide in Jesus. John 15:1-6

- **Be sure you follow the “true vine” of Jesus Christ to bear His fruit.** John 15:1
“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.”
- **Allow the Christ to work in your life so you bear His fruit.** John 15:2
“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit”
Hebrews 12:5-11: This passage teaches the discipline of God.
What happens to those God “prunes” or disciplines?
- **Learn and obey the Word of Christ.** John 15:3
“You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.”
Ps. 119:67, 71; Hebrews 4:12.
How does the Word of God work in your life? How are you learning more from the Bible?

The Results of Abiding in Jesus. John 15:7-11

- **Answered prayer.** John 15:7
“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

What prayers do you want answered by God? Pray for them now.

- **Experience Jesus’ love.** John 15:9-10
“Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.”

How have you experienced the love of Jesus? How have others loved you? How are you loving others?

- **Be filled with Jesus’ joy.** John 15:11
“These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.”

What brings “joy” to your life?

Next Steps:

1. **Consider coming on the Calvary to Turkey Trip** to visit and learn about the region of the world where the epistles of John were written. Want to learn more about this trip of a lifetime before you commit to going? Join us for an informational meeting on **Sunday, July 19 in the Warehouse (C Building) at 10:15 am and 12:15 pm**. Hear from the pastors who are leading the trip and get all of your questions answered. Learn more online at calvarylife.org/turkey
2. **Connect in a LifeGroup** for support and encouragement to grow in your faith with others. LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. There are many LifeGroups available on Calvary’s campus and in homes across Orange County. Learn more at calvarylife.org/lifegroups