

“Being Sure of Your Future”

4-week Series

September 8, 2024

Scripture Text: 1 John 5:1-5 ESV **1** Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. **2** By this we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. **3** For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. **4** For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. **5** Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

VERSE 1 *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.*

John identifies four characteristics of people who have encountered and believed in Jesus Christ to become a child of God.

The First Characteristic of a Child of God is **Love:**

Their lives were dramatically changed when they experienced His great love for them.

1 John 3:1 NKJV Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

Ephesians 1:13-14 NKJV *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.*

2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

The Second Characteristic of a Child of God is **Obedience:**

John 12:47-49 ESV **47** *If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.* **48** *The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge*

him on the last day. 49 For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.”

The Holy Spirit's nature complies with the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit within each person leads us in obedience to the will of the Father. God's transformation love compels us to love others as the Father has loved and accepted us.

VERSE 2 *By this, we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments.*

As children born again by the Holy Spirit on the day we received Jesus Christ as our savior, our hearts were filled with God's Love. I can't speak for you, but I remember that Sunday morning when my soul was flooded with God's love, which forever changed my life! I knew God had sealed me as His child by the Holy Spirit. It was like... I walked in the clouds for a week before my feet hit the ground! I returned home to my stepfather, who had rejected me, and told him that I loved him! I understood by the Holy Spirit that He could not love me because he didn't have a relationship with Jesus Christ!

When you and I receive God's love, you can't help but to love others! As a child of God, you live to please God... Period! The Holy Spirit actively works in you to will and do for God's good pleasure because eternity is always in view!

VERSE 3 *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.*

The Third Characteristic of a Child of God is **Faith**. Hebrews 11:6 NIV *And without faith, it is impossible to please God because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek Him.*

Let me ask you a question... “When you agape someone, is it your desire to please them?... **Absolutely! To agape, another person is a witness of the Spirit of God in you!** You will be ready even to sacrifice something to demonstrate your love toward them. **Romans 5:8 NIV *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***

Being in love with Father God is not grievous, nor is His commandments: **Mark 12:30-31 NIV 30 *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. 31 The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.’***

VERSE 4 *For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.*