

THE VERDICT, PLEASE.

1. In the words of C. S. Lewis, your choices as to who Jesus is are limited. In light of what Jesus has said about himself, in light of what God has said about him, in light of what the water and blood and the Holy Spirit have said about him, Jesus is either a liar, a lunatic, or LORD.
2. C. S. Lewis said, "Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, is of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important."

Ask Yourself:

What is your verdict on this important question? What is your next faithful step? Could you explain your decision to another person thinking through this?



THE CASE

John is presenting a case to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Jesus is the son of God, and our SALVATION can only be found in him.

THE EVIDENCE (V1-5)

In the first five verses of chapter 5, John returns to the evidence that provides his reader CONFIDENCE that he/she is in the faith by way of SPIRITUAL BIRTHMARKS.

1. The first birthmark John identifies is LOVE.

1 John 5:1 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.

If you love the Father (authentically), it is an EXPECTATION that you are not only going to love the Father who brought you new birth, but you are going to love your siblings.

Ask Yourself:

Have I given myself permission to act in an unloving way to a sibling?

2. The second birthmark John identifies is OBEDIENCE.

1 John 5:2 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.

- a. It then naturally follows in v. 2 that it is impossible to truly love the family of God around you, if you are not really LOVERS of God. What kind of love would that be?
- b. But as we move into v. 3, John explains how genuine love for God is demonstrated. Love is best demonstrated in OBEDIENCE.

John 14:15: "If you love me, you will keep my commands."

- c. We can measure our love for God by how well our LIFESTYLE matches our Maker's instructions! John ends v. 3 with a very important qualifier. God's commandments are not "*burdensome*." The word in Greek means "heavy, hard to bear."
- d. Why are God's commands not burdensome?
 - i. When we are born of God, you receive a new spiritual nature and the old "have to" of our sinful nature changes to a "want to"
 - ii. His commandments are given for our GOOD.
 - iii. God has given us empowerment to FULFILL them.

Ask Yourself:

Have I opted out of what God has commanded me to do?

3. The third birthmark John identifies is FAITH.

1 John 5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ...

1 John 5:4 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?

- a. Notice how John uses parallel statements (bookends) in v. 1 and v. 5. Faith begins the Christian life and SUSTAINS the Christian life.

- b. How do we conquer the WORLD?

If I am to overcome the world, I need a POWER beyond my own strength. That is accessed through my faith, (through my connection and union with Christ), but also doing my part in being a Romans 6 person and saying NO to sin when it rises up.

Ephesians 1:18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

Ask Yourself:

When confronted by things of the world, am I turning to God's power or my own willpower?

THE EVIDENCE (V6-12)

John is bringing evidence that the object of their faith is valid.

1 John 5:6 This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. 7 For there are three that testify: 8 the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. 9 If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. 10 Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. 11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

- 1. The testimony of the WATER and the blood (v. 6).
- 2. The testimony of the HOLY Spirit (vv. 7,8).
- 3. The testimony of God the FATHER (v. 9).
- 4. The testimony of "whoever" (v. 10).
- 5. Closing Argument: Eternal life is in the SON alone (vv. 11,12).