

Assurance of Salvation: Know You Are Right With God

Questions:

How can you know (assurance) you are saved?

What does the Bible teach about the idea “once saved you can sin however much like”?

OBJECTIVE: Salvation is Gods great rescue mission of the world from sin: destruction, corruption and decay. The goal of this lesson is to see how a disciple can have assurance that they are saved and right with God by looking at the book of 1 John.

1 John was written to give assurance of salvation to certain believers who had their faith shaken by false christian teachers who had a false understanding of jesus and how to live out salvation. he wrote about 3 big themes to encourage them in that they can know they are saved:

What did they believe? (Jesus)

How did they belong? (Community)

How did they behave? (sin)

Ask the following questions under each theme and compare their answers to how John, Jesus’ closest disciple, taught the first century Christians to combat lies about Jesus and salvation.

I. Theme: Incarnation

Q: What do you believe about jesus? (gather their thoughts)

1 John 2:22 And who is a liar? Anyone who says that Jesus is not the Christ. Anyone who denies the Father and the Son is an antichrist.

- Jesus is the Christ (the messiah-king, God’s Son, God’s chosen one who brings salvation to the world, including Christ-followers). If someone denies Jesus as God’s chosen one to bring salvation, then they have rejected God’s way of salvation from sin.

1 John 4: 2 This is how we know if they have the Spirit of God: **If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God.** 3 But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God.

- the Holy Spirit can only agree that Jesus is God.

1 John 5: 5 Everyone who believes that **Jesus is the Christ** has become a child of God. 4 For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith. 5 And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that **Jesus is the Son of God**. 6 And Jesus Christ was revealed as God's Son by his baptism in water and by shedding his blood on the cross—not by water only, but by water and blood. And the Spirit, who is truth, confirms it with his testimony. 9 Since we believe human testimony, surely we can believe the greater testimony that comes from God. And God has testified about his Son. 10 All who believe in the Son of God know in their hearts that this testimony is true. Those who don't believe this are actually calling God a liar because they don't believe what God has testified about his Son. 11 And this is what God has testified: **He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life.**

- **Jesus came from heaven in a real body, was fully human and fully God. Only a full human being can represent a sinful, rebellious humanity on a cross; only a full God can forgive sins and be a perfect sacrifice because a full god is 100% perfect. Therefore, to deny Jesus' full humanity or full divinity is to deny God, his Son and his way of salvation.**
- **bottom line: what you believe about Jesus matters because it will effect how you think about God, yourself, sin, eternity, the world and salvation.**

II. Theme: Loving one another:

Q: How do those in your current community see your character? How do others feel treated by you?

1 John 3:11-24: 11 This is the message you have heard from the beginning: **We should love one another. 14 If we love our Christian brothers and sisters, it proves that we have passed from death to life. But a person who has no love is still dead. 15 Anyone who hates another brother or sister is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don't have eternal life within them. 16 We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. 19 Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God. 23 And this is his commandment: We must believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he commanded us. 24 Those who obey God's commandments remain in fellowship with him, and he with them. And we know he lives in us because the Spirit he gave us lives in us.**

- **Our life must be characterized by loving others the way God loved - by laying down our lives sacrificially.**
- **The writer F.W. Boreham writes about this laying down of our lives using the illustration of the game dominos. In dominos when someone lays down a**

domino with a certain number, you must match that number. Jesus laid down his life not only to forgive sins, but as an example to us. He has laid down the first domino, now our response must be to match his by laying down our lives for him and for others.

Q: How does your current acts of love towards Jesus and others match Jesus' example of the supreme act of love on the cross (laying down his life selflessly)? What is ONE way you can better love others this week?

III. Theme: Relationship between sin and being God's child

Q: What are some positive and negative aspects of your behavior? What motivates your behavior? How is your attitude/actions towards God on a daily basis (do you seek to spend time with him or ignore him)?

1 John 1:8-2:2 8 If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. 9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts. 2 My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. 2 He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.

- Everyone sins. Even Christians. That's why we ALL need a Savior. The question is who or what do you turn too for forgiveness when you sin? your works? your pride not to admit sin? your guilt over your sin? do you turn to anything? Turn to God, who loves you and wants to forgive you.

1 John 3 See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him. 2 Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. 3 And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure. 4 Everyone who sins is breaking God's law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God. 5 And you know that Jesus came to take away our sins, and there is no sin in him. 6 Anyone who continues to live in him will not sin. But anyone who keeps on sinning does not know him or understand who he is. do not make a practice of sinning, Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God.

- This does not have to be a scary passage for Christians. Here's why: God loves his children. He, through his Holy Spirit, will help us look like Jesus in every area

of our life. There is nothing to fear if you are a child of God. Jesus took away your sins if you have trusted him as Lord over your life. A genuine, holy spirit filled Christian can not have a life where they constantly rebel against God or love sin more than God or hate their Christian brother and sister.

- New Testament scholar Gordon Fee says it beautifully, “Gods true children do not continue to live in sin, but neither are they sinlessly perfect; what matters is whether their obedience expresses itself in love for brothers and sisters.”

How can you have assurance of salvation?

- I. Do not deny the truth of who Jesus is
- II. Love one another
- III. Do not make a practice of sinning, but show your faithful obedience to God by loving one another.

All this happens only by the Holy Spirit, who makes one born again into a new creation (John 3:3-6). You only have the Holy Spirit if you have placed your ultimate trust (faith) in Christ. Salvation starts with Christ and is finished with Christ.