

That You May Know — 1 John 5:1-5

In this text John points out several marks that evidence that we abide in God. By this point in the book of 1 John it may seem that the message is getting to be a little repetitive at first glance. Love God, Love others. Abide in Christ and love others the way we have been loved by God. We get it, right? Simple as that. However, it is so much greater than being able to recite back what the text is saying. We as the followers of Jesus will be marked by whether we truly live out this message. In John 13:35, Jesus points out that by this love all people will know that we are his disciples by the way that we love one another. In our text today we once again must drill down to see if we really do love. Let's look at a few questions.

Discussion questions — *do not feel the pressure to cover them all

1. There will be some distinguishing marks for those that are rescued or saved by Christ. John points out here that believers will confess that Jesus is the Messiah. This is more than just acknowledging the fact but totally surrendering to His Lordship. He goes on to say that those who believe will love others who believe. This is truly a family. What keeps us from loving the way that we should? Like our own earthly families there are some that are easier to love than others. What barriers do you run into that make it hard to love like we have been commanded to love? How might we overcome this hurdle? How have you seen this brotherly love play out in your own life?
2. John tells us there will clearly be a distinguishing mark of conduct and character that flows from being rescued by Christ. We will know that we are loving the children of God if we love God and obey His commandments. How are loving God and obeying His commands interrelated? He goes on to say that obeying these commands are not burdensome or grievous. This doesn't mean they are easy or not difficult, but it means that we have overcome because we are born of God. There should be joy to follow His commands. When we disobey these commands, we are in sin. How can obeying the commands of God show us that we love our brothers? How can obeying God's commands show us that we love God (disobedience to His commands is at the core breaking relationship with God)? How do we tend to turn this obedience of commands into self-righteousness? Share about a time that you found God's command to be burdensome. How did you work through this? How would you encourage a new Christian in this area?
3. We are told that everyone who is born of God has overcome the world. Our faith in Christ has seated us with Him in the heavenlies. We are positionally in Christ and victorious. How does this one thought change everything about our lives? Paul pointed out in Romans that we are more than conquerors through Christ. For those who have surrendered and believed in Christ as Messiah have

overcome. Share with others an area of your life that you need to apply this truth? How might you and I cultivate our lives towards growth in this area?

4. Who is someone you know today that needs the rescue of Jesus? How might you use this truth we have seen today to encourage them to surrender to Christ? Pray for them.