

First John 5:1-5

- 1) Two ways to identify authentic Christians—5:1
  - a) Identifier # 1—Trust—<sup>1</sup> *Each one characterized by trusting* [pres. act. ptc. πιστεύω]
    - i) Trusting what? *that* [ὅτι] *Jesus is the Christ, has been fathered* [pf. pass. ind. γεννάω] *by* [ἐκ] *God*, (cf. the opposite in 2:22; 4:2-3)
      - (1) Your trust is evidence of the Father's sovereign act of giving you life
  - b) Identifier # 2—Love for the Father impacts our love for our brothers—and *each one characterized by loving* [pres. act. ptc. ἀγαπάω] *the One who fathered* [aor. act. ptc. γεννάω] *is loving* [pres. act. subj. ἀγαπάω] *the one who has been fathered* [pf. pass. ptc. γεννάω] *by* [ἐκ] *Him*. (We cannot love God without loving the children of God.)
- 2) But how do I know if I am genuinely loving other Christians?—5:2 <sup>2</sup> *By this we are knowing* [pres. act. ind. γινώσκω] *that we are loving* [pres. act. ind. ἀγαπάω] *the born ones* [τέκνον] *of God*,
  - a) My love for God—*whenever we are loving* [pres. act. subj. ἀγαπάω] *God*
  - b) My obedience to God—and *we are doing* [pres. act. subj. τηρέω] *His commandments*.
- 3) Then how do I know if I really love God?—5:3 <sup>3</sup> *For this is the love* [ἀγάπη] *of (for) God*,
  - a) Characteristic obedience is the expression of loving God—that [ἵνα] *we are keeping* [pres. act. subj. τηρέω] *His commandments*
    - i) The test of Christian faith or knowledge is a holy life.
    - b) Right heart attitude toward obedience—and *His commandments are not heavy* [βαρῦς] (oppressive, burdensome, difficult, onerous).
    - c) For John, loving the brothers cannot be separated from the three other aspects of the family relationship—loving God, keeping His commandments, and believing in His Son. For John, these four things exist together, or not at all.
    - d) Ethics is never to be divorced from doctrine.
- 4) I am conquering the world through trust—5:4-5
  - a) A statement true of all authentic Christians—<sup>4</sup> *Because each one who has been fathered* [pf. pass. ptc. γεννάω] *of* [ἐκ] *God has victory over* [pres. act. ind. νικάω] *the world* [κόσμος];
    - i) What does it mean to overcome the world? Cf. 2:15-17; 4:1-6; 5:19
    - ii) And how does that happen? *and this is the victory* [νίκη] *that has victory over* [aor. act. ptc. νικάω] *the world* [κόσμος], *our trust* [πίστις].
  - b) A question of the objective content of our trust—<sup>5</sup> *And who is the one characterized by having victory over* [pres. act. ptc. νικάω] *the world* [κόσμος] *if not the one characterized by trusting* [pres. act. ptc. πιστεύω]
    - i) Trusting what? *that Jesus is the Son of God?*