

Are You Sure?

Scripture: **1 John 3:19-21**

Series: **Doctrine & Devotion: A Study in the First Epistle of John**

Sunday, August 23, 2015



REDEEMER
FELLOWSHIP

Overview

Love is the mark of a Christian, and love is an evidence of true faith. However, our love is not our confidence that we have been born of God. The heart condemns, but God is the one who justifies. Therefore, our confidence rests solely on God's love for us, due to His forgiveness of our sins and the imputation of Christ's righteousness. As saints who He has redeemed, we are now acceptable before God because God sees us in Christ. Our heart can no longer condemn us, since God is greater than our heart and because God loves us.

Corroborating Texts

Romans 3:20-22; Romans 5:8; Romans 8:15-16; Romans 8:31-39

Discussion Questions

1. Regarding the commonly-used evangelistic question to seekers and skeptics: "*If you were to die tonight, would you go to heaven?*" Pastor Joe made a suggestion for reframing this question: "*What does God think of you?*" Why do you think Joe made this point? [heaven is not on most people's radar; many people don't believe in a literal heaven] How do you think this reframed question might be received by seekers and skeptics?
2. Even though love is the mark of a Christian, and an evidence of true faith, why can't we base our confidence in that alone?
3. Unless we are redeemed by God, our heart condemns us. Why does this condemn us? What are various ways that it condemns us? [there's an abiding sense of guilt that robs us of our peace and security before God; we are not good enough or pure enough; Satan is always working to accuse us]
4. Our conscience bears witness that we are sinners, and our conscience condemns us. Yet we often try to cope with our conscience in unbiblical ways. What are two unbiblical ways that we try to cope with our conscience? [we run toward our sin in the hope that we will become desensitized to it; or we work to improve our standing with God by our own performance]
5. The heart condemns, but God is the one who justifies. Explain the doctrine of justification. What are the two aspects of justification? [forgiveness of sins and imputation of Christ's righteousness]