

## Confidence In Christ!

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**I John 5:14 -21**

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### Using This Study

#### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

#### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

#### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



We have come to the end of our study of I John...a letter that challenges every believer to question whether they have confidence in Christ.

As a review, the Apostle John, *“the disciple whom Jesus loved”* (John 13:23), wrote his short letter towards the end of the first century most likely from Ephesus. His purpose was to encourage every believer (throughout Asia and today), to live in God’s light and maintain intimate fellowship with others through the love of Christ.

In this short Epistle, John washes and renews our minds with reminders that Jesus is our source of life and light (**Chapter 1**); that in Christ, we are safe and secure from Satan’s attacks (**Chapter 2**); that we are saved and sanctified by the power of the Holy Spirit (**Chapter 3**); that we are to test every spirit and determine whether they are true or false (**Chapter 4**); and that we are to guard ourselves and others against sin and idolatry (**Chapter 5**).

John is asking us to determine if we are maturing in Christ...if we have been transformed by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit...and if we are living a life of authentic Christianity. In essence, John is asking if we truly have confidence in Christ.

So, the question is: Do we?

## **I John 5:14-21 (NASB)**

### **Confidence In Christ**

<sup>14</sup> This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him. <sup>16</sup> If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make

request for this.

<sup>17</sup> All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death. <sup>18</sup> We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.

<sup>19</sup> We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. <sup>20</sup> And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

<sup>21</sup> Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

## **① EXAMINE His Word (Observation)**

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is repeated to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are like or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

## **EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)**

What does God MEAN?

8. In verses 14 and 15, what is the “confidence” that John says believers have in Christ?

9. In verse 16, what responsibility do believers have towards other believers living in sin?

10. In verse 16, John says there is a “sin that does not lead to death”. What is he talking about?

11. What should a believer do if he sees another believer committing a “sin that does not lead to death”?

12. In verse 16, John states there is a “sin that leads to death”. What do you think that means?

13. Why does John say a believer should not make a request for a “sin that leads to death”?

14. In verse 18, John declares that anyone born of God does not sin? Can a true believer sin?

15. Verse 19 says the “whole world lies in the power of the evil one”. If God is sovereign, how can this be?

16. Verse 20, states that Christ “has come and has given us understanding so that we may know Him”.  
What is the “understanding” John is speaking of?

17. Verse 21, closes by saying we should “guard against idols”. How do you define idols?

### **③ EMBRACE His Word (Application)**

**Why does this MATTER to me?**

18. Have you ever had to confront another believer about their sin? How did that make you feel?

19. Do you genuinely believe God hears and answers your prayers? Why or why not?

20. Since becoming a Christian, do you find it easier or harder not to sin when being tempted?

21. How do you guard yourself from making “idols” in your life?

### **Summarize your thoughts on the passage:**

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

