

7 Things Every Child of God Can Know

1 John 5:1-21

Introduction

- 1) Many people believe the dictum, “What you don’t know can’t hurt you,” is true. Well, I would imagine those in the medical field would disagree. I do know those who wrote the Bible would. Paul and John are especially concerned with what we know. They are convinced what we know is essential to our spiritual health and vitality as a Christian.
- 2) 6 times in 1 Corinthians Paul asks, “Do you not know ...” (6:2, 3, 9, 15, 16, 19)
8 times in 1 John 5 John appeals to what we know (5:2, 13, 15, 15, 18, 19, 20, 20).
- 3) John is interested in a number of issues as he brings his 1st letter to a close. A quick survey of the 21 verses of this 5th chapter reveal to us that John is concerned that we understand (10 truths total):
 - Spiritual birth (5:1, 4, 18)
 - The importance of God’s commandments (5:2-3)
 - The endearing nature of love (5:1-3)
 - Our victory in Jesus (5:4-5)
 - God’s witness to His Son (5:6-11)
 - The confidence we can have in knowing we have eternal life (5:11-13)
 - The confidence we can have in God answering prayer (5:14-15)
 - The seriousness of sin (5:16-19)
 - Where true knowledge of God is found (5:20)
 - The danger of idols (5:21)
- 4) It is possible to package these observations into 7 great truths God wants everyone of His children to know, understand and believe: 7 keys to victory in the Christian life.

We Can Know:

I. That we love one another. 5:1-3

- Belief, knowledge, the new birth and obedience are linked together.
- Loving God is the key to loving others.
- Obeying God is the key to loving others.
- Believing Jesus is the Christ is the key to loving others.

Forty-one percent of the adults who attend Christian church services in a typical week are not born-again Christians – meaning they have not embraced Jesus Christ as their Savior. Barna in SBC Life, June/July 2002, p. 12

*This may explain why we do not love so well in many churches.

II. We have overcome the world. 5:4-5

- Overcome (3x)
- Overcome is linked to spiritual birth.
- Overcome is linked to believing Jesus is the Son of God (the Christ, v. 1).

III. Jesus is God. 5:6-10

- His baptism and cross witnesses to His deity (5:6, 8).
- The Holy Spirit witnesses to His deity (5:6, 8).
- The Father witnesses to His deity (5:9).
- The Believer's experience (by the indwelling Spirit) witnesses to His deity (5:10).

IV. We have eternal life. 5:11-13

- Life (5x) Son (5x)
- Life and Son go together. They cannot be separated.
- 5:13 (4th and greatest purpose statement in 1 John).
- We can know (confidence/security) we have eternal life.
- Great question: "What are you trusting in now?"

V. God answers prayer. 5:14-17

- We can be confident in prayer (v. 14).
- We should pray according to God's will (vv. 14-15).
- We should intercede for those who fall into sin (5:16-17).
- Some sin is so serious there is no benefit in praying (5:18).

VI. Christians do not practice sin. 5:18-19

- Spiritual birth is contrary to a life of sin.
- Protection by Christ is contrary to a life of sin.
- Abiding in God is contrary to a life of sin.

VII. That we know the true God. 5:20-21

- Knowledge of God comes through the Son.
- Knowledge of God is true knowledge.
- Knowledge of God is essential to eternal life.
- Knowledge of God will keep us away from idols.

Conclusion

Illustration: Doctor Phil is a hot item today. Oprah was crucial in getting him on the map. Some believe he may even eclipse Oprah. Fan Jenny Purple summarizes what many Americans feel today, "I always say I'm a member of the Church of Oprah and Dr. Phil is my higher power" (*Newsweek*, Sept. 2, 2002, p. 56).

John would say make sure you are a member of the Church of Jesus Christ and God is your higher power. Here, and only here, is where you will come to know the true God and eternal life.