

Christian Confidence

1 John 5:1-6

I. Introduction:

A. Shaken Confidence

1. Sometimes in professional sports a player's confidence can get shaken.
2. When failures creep into a professional athlete's life, they lose some confidence.
3. They are just not sure they can do what they should be doing.

B. Christian Life

1. The same thing can happen in the Christian life. There are times when we fail.
2. There are times when we are not all we desire to be for Jesus.
3. The Christian can be in a slump feeling defeated in the Christian life.
4. Good News: John lays out in this passage principles for overcoming conflict we encounter in this world. John reminds us we have perpetual victory in Jesus.

II. Assurance of Victory (1 John 5:1-2)

A. Assurance of salvation

1. This is more than intellectual ascent to a truth.
2. To believe that Jesus is the Christ means we believe at least 7 things.
 - (1) – We believe He is the eternal God.
 - (2) – We believe in the incarnation.
 - (3) – We believe He lived a sinless human life.
 - (4) – We believe He died a literal death on the cross.
 - (5) – We believe He arose bodily from the grave on the 3rd day.
 - (6) – We believe He ascended back to heaven.
 - (7) – To believe in the incarnation of Christ means to be saved.

B. Three Evidences of Being Saved

1. – We love God.
 - a. In our flesh we cannot love God as we should; however, all who are saved have a genuine love for our God. We love Him because He first loved us.
 - b. It is natural for the spiritual child of God to love our Heavenly Father.
2. – We love those begotten of Him.
 - a. In our human families there is a familial bond & familial love.
 - b. The children love their parents and siblings love one another.
 - c. Same is true in our spiritual family.
 - d. Genuinely loving God, then it is natural for us to love all who're born of Him.
 - e. Great evidence of our relationship with the Father is our love for His children.
3. – Obedience
 - a. It has been said that obedience is the only proof of love.
 - b. Love is just a word unless it is connected to outward expression.
 - c. We naturally seek to do what pleases those we love.
 - d. Our love for God is demonstrated by our desire to do what pleases Him.

III. Obeying God is Not a Burden (1 John 5:3)

A. Not Burdensome

1. John said living for Jesus is not a burden.
2. He's drawing contrast between the legalistic law & serving the Lord. (**Matt. 23:4**)

3. The Pharisees made the law of God heavy and difficult to do.
4. John was thinking of what Jesus had said when John stated the commandments of God are not burdensome. (**Matthew 11:29-30**)
5. Application: There is a difference between being challenging and being burdensome.
6. Consider two reasons the commandments of God are not a burden,
 - (1)– Love
 - a. That which is done in love is never viewed as a duty or task too great.
 - b. Caring for our children is hard work, not always immediately gratifying; yet, love compels us and it is not burdensome.
 - c. If we love God, it's joy to keep His commands & live life that's pleasing to Him.
 - d. Story: Love has a way of making a burden no burden at all.
 - (2) – God's Power
 - a. 2nd reason God's commands aren't burdensome is we have His power living in us.
 - b. God never asks us to do something without supplying us with the power to do it.
 - c. We fail because of our lack of surrender to God & lack of dependence upon Him.

IV. We Are Already Victorious (1 John 5:4-5)

A. Difficulty Already Overcome

1. World makes obeying God's commandments difficult. Satanic opposes righteousness.
2. The evil world system appeals to our fallen human nature.
3. All the challenges of this life are the result of sin and the fall of humanity.
4. Jesus conquered sin & its consequences. By faith in Him, we're united with Him & His victory is ours. Faith is here spoken of in two ways:
 - (1) – Initial Saving Faith
 - a. Salvation is by grace through faith alone. (**Ephesians 2:8-9**)
 - b. Faith in Jesus Christ is required to be forgiven of our sin & receive His eternal life.
 - (2) – Ongoing Faith
 - a. After we are saved, there's ongoing faith we live by every day. (**Romans 1:16-17**)
 - b. We live and walk by faith every day. More our faith grows, the more successful we are in obeying the commands of God. We are saved by faith.
 - c. Then we walk the Christian life by faith. Faith is the key to our practical victory.

V. Testimony of the Truth (1 John 5:6)

A. Three witnesses

1. According to OT law (**Deut. 19:15**), one witness was insufficient to convict of a crime.
2. Two or three witnesses were required to corroborate an accusation or a claim.
3. The life and ministry of Jesus are validated by three witnesses.
 - (1) – The Water
 - a. This refers to the baptism of Jesus marking the beginning of His earthly ministry.
 - b. The testimony of the Father is at His baptism. (**Matthew 3:17**)
 - (2) – The Blood
 - a. This refers to the cross. Jesus shed His blood to redeem us.
 - b. Proof that His blood was sufficient is seen in the resurrection.
 - c. The death of Jesus on the cross bears witness to who He is.
 - (3)– The Spirit
 - a. The Spirit bore witness at Pentecost with the birth of the church.
 - b. The Spirit continues to bear witness convicting & convincing people of the truth.
 - c. The Spirit bears witness to the truth of who Jesus is and what He did for us.