

1 John

Lesson 7 Chapter 5:13-21

Leader Guide

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Eternal Assurance

Lesson 7, 1 John 5:13–21

Prayers

Read

^{1Jn 5:13} I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. ^{1Jn 5:14} This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ^{1Jn 5:15} And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

^{1Jn 5:16} If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that he should pray about that. ^{1Jn 5:17} All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.

^{1Jn 5:18} We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. ^{1Jn 5:19} We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. ^{1Jn 5:20} We know also 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—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

^{1Jn 5:21} Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

Discuss

1. What are the seven things in verses 13-20 John wants us, children of God, to know about God and Jesus Christ?

Verse 13

Verse 15

Verse 18

Verse 19

Verse 20

Verse 20

Verse 20

2. Which of John's seven truths about God are especially reassuring to you now?

3. Verse 14. John says that we can be confident in approaching God in prayer if we ask according to his will. We know God's will because he tells us what it is in the scriptures. Read the following verses and summarize what God's will is for some of the most significant aspects of your life.
 - a. Matthew 22:37-40 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ^{Mt 22:40} All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."
 - b. ^{Mt 5:44} But I tell you: Love your enemies ²⁸ and pray for those who persecute you
 - c. Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
 - d. ^{Mt 6:25, 34} "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? ^{Mt 6:34} Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.
 - e. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

4. John discusses sin extensively in his letter. He tells his readers they should not sin, as evidence that they are born of God. He also tells them to confess their sin, and anyone is a liar who claims he does not sin. In verse 16, John says we should pray for our brothers (fellow believers) who sin.
 - a. Do you find these statements contradictory?

 - b. Do you believe it is true that those born of God do not sin?

 - c. Summarize in your own words what John has been teaching about sin.

5. Verse 16b. John makes a distinction between sin that leads to death and sin that doesn't lead to death. The word translated as "lead" means progress toward a direction rather than a foregone conclusion. There is much speculation about what sin John was referring to that leads to death. Discuss the following ideas on the "sin that leads to death."
 - a. 1 John 2:22-23

^{1Jn 2:22} Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist—he denies the Father and the Son. ^{1Jn 2:23} No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

b. Matthew 12:25-32,

^{Mt 12:25} Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. ^{Mt 12:26} If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? ^{Mt 12:27} And if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. ^{Mt 12:28} But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ^{Mt 12:30} “He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters. ^{Mt 12:31} And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.

c. I John 3:6, Hebrews 10:26-27,

^{1Jn 3:6} No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

^{Heb 10:26} If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, ^{Heb 10:27} but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.

d. 1 Corinthians 5:11-13

^{1Co 5:11} But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man, do not even eat.

^{1Co 5:12} What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside?

^{1Co 5:13} God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."

6. Verses 18-20 John reminds believers that the world is under the control of the evil one.

How does John say that God protects His children from Satan?

^{1Jn 5:18} We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. ^{1Jn 5:19} We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. ^{1Jn 5:20} We know also 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—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

7. Verse 21 John tells believers to keep themselves from idols. Idolatry was pervasive in Israel’s history and Greek culture. The temptations to worship idols in Israel’s history grew from entering alliances with other kingdoms or foreign gods for power, wealth, or protection, seeking wives from other nations, and sexual immorality associated with temple worship. What are some of the idols in our lives if we view idolatry as anything that tempts us to live apart from God?

Closing Prayer

Dear Father,

We give you thanks for assuring us of your love, for hearing our prayers, and for uniting us to your Son Jesus Christ, even to eternal life. We confess our sins and pray for your Spirit to guide and strengthen us and keep us from temptation. We ask that you bless us this week as we go through our many activities and pray that we will be a blessing to others.

AMEN