

I John 3:19-24

Intro. • Many commentators have deemed this passage to be grammatically garbled and interpretively problematic. Do you agree? Why?

- 3:19**
- How does this verse tie-in with the previous section?
 - What does “by this...” refer to?
 - What is meant by being “of the truth”?
 - having the right belief-system?
 - being orthodox in doctrine?
 - deriving out of the reality of Jesus Christ?
 - being right in contrast to the false-teachers who are wrong?
 - Why will “our hearts be assured before Him”?
 - because we are “of the truth”?
 - because we are genuine Christians?
 - because we are loving?
 - because we have a good conscience?
- 3:20**
- Is John referring in this verse to...
 - the severity of God’s condemnation?
 - the mercy of God’s grace?
 - What might their hearts be condemning them of?
 - not acting in love?
 - anger and resentment toward false-teachers?
 - failure to believe the right truth?
 - Is this condemnation of the heart...
 - genuine guilt?
 - false guilt?
 - Can you think of some examples of how one’s heart might condemn with false guilt?
 - In what way is God “greater than our heart”?
 - in condemnation?
 - in mercy and forgiveness?
 - Do the following references amplify John’s assertion that God “knows all things”?
 - John 21:17
 - Heb. 4:13
- 3:21**
- Why would their heart not condemn them?
 - because they are not guilty?
 - because they have acted in love?
 - because they have no conscience?
 - because they overlook sin?
 - because they do not entertain false-guilt?
 - What is the basis of their “confidence before God”?
 - the blood of Jesus? (cf. Heb. 10:19)
 - the absence of guilt?
 - the mercy, forgiveness and grace of God?
 - that they are “of the truth”?

- 3:22**
- How does this verse relate to the previous verse?
 - an out-of-place *non sequitur*?
 - a consequence of having no condemnation?
 - an expansion of the “confidence” one has before God?
 - Is answered prayer...
 - a meritorious result of “keeping His commandments”?
 - an evidence of the receptivity that allows God to be the dynamic of His own demands?
 - What does it mean to “do the things that are pleasing in His sight”?
 - How can anyone do what is “pleasing in His sight”? (cf. John 8:29)
- 3:23**
- Does this verse summarize God’s expectations for man?
 - Is this essentially the same as the two-fold commandment of Mark 12:28-31?
 - What does it mean to “believe in the name of God’s Son Jesus Christ”?
 - to affirm the historicity of Jesus?
 - to assent to the Christian theological understanding of Jesus?
 - to receive the Being of the Spirit of Christ into one’s spirit?
(cf. John 1:12; Gal. 3:2; Rom. 8:9)
 - Why is “loving one another” the consequence of believing in Jesus?
(cf. Col. 2:6; Rom. 5:5; Gal. 5:22)
- 3:24**
- Why does “the one who keeps His commandments abide in Him”?
 - infused grace to carry out God’s commandments?
 - influence of Christian community to perform ethically?
 - indwelling presence and function of the Spirit of Christ?
 - What is the evidence of God’s abiding in us?
 - the presence of the Spirit?
 - the dynamic function of the Spirit?
 - the fruit of the Spirit?
 - the loving expression of the Spirit?
- Conc.**
- What is John’s primary point in these verses?
 - Can you explain how verse 24 provides the lead-in to the next paragraph, 4:1-6?