

“Assuring Our Hearts Before God”

1 John 3:19-20

Introduction:

- A. Christians have assurance greater than their hearts or their feelings.
 - 1. First John emphasizes this fact through out.
 - 2. God’s word more reliable than our hearts.
- B. Trend today toward heart-felt religion over Divinely revealed religion.
 - 1. Heart felt assurance the standard for measuring salvation.
 - 2. Satisfaction of felt-needs the standard for measuring worship.
 - 3. *Feeling* close to God equated with *being* close to God.
 - 4. More emphasis on stirring up the heart than stirring up the mind. (Cf. 2 Pet. 3:1)
- C. We will notice several assurances that we have from God in First John.

Discussion:

- I. The Assurance Of Fellowship of God. (1 John 1:1-10).**
 - A. Gnostic and others have sought mystical (“better-felt-than-told”) assurance of fellowship.
 - B. Christians have a better assurance of fellowship.
 - 1. The apostolic message. (vv. 1-5; 2:1-2).
 - 2. Walking the light of that message. (vv. 7)
 - 3. The written promise of forgiveness (v. 9).
- II. The Assurance of Knowledge of God. (1 John 2:3-5).**
 - A. Many want to know God like they know one they see and feel.
 - B. Christian assured they know God if keep his commandments.
- III. The Assurance of Abiding in God. (1 John 2:5, 24-27).**
 - A. Many look for sensational feeling.
 - B. Christians have anointing of gospel heard from beginning.
- IV. The Assurance of being Children of God. (1 John 3:7-9).**
 - A. Many rely some miraculous “born again” experience.
 - B. Christians assured by their practice of truth.
 - 1. In becoming children of God (5:1; cf. Gal. 3:26-27).
 - 2. In remaining Christian of God (text)
- V. The Assurance of Love for God and his children. (1 John 5:1-3).**
 - A. Love different from natural feelings and expression - sensual.
 - B. Love that can be commanded.
 - C. Love that is active good will toward its object.
 - D. Love of faith and not of passion.
- VI. The Assurance of Eternal Life (1 John 5:9-13)**
 - A. Based on the record (vv. 10, 13).
 - B. Based on abiding in having the son (v. 12, cf. 2 John 9-11).

Conclusion:

- A. Do not depend on heart for assurance - but God's promises.
- B. Assure hearts with word of God rather than fleeting emotions of heart.