

“IT’S TRUE; HE IS GOD, AND HE IS LOVE!”

1 John 4:1-5:5

Part 1

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INTRODUCTION

In the Gospel of John, we are presented with the case for Christ with a series of undeniable proofs that provides the reader with an opportunity for faith. Will the reader choose to “believe” in Christ, and in believing, receive eternal life? He makes this purpose statement in the Gospel of John 20:30-31: “Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus Christ is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”¹

In the Epistle of First John, written by the same author, we are again presented with a case for Christ. But this time his purpose includes the need to deal with teaching that is contrary to the truth and the need for “assurance” in the lives of those who have “believed.” He again makes a purpose statement in 1 John 5:13: “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.”¹

Let’s consider how these same key issues are vital for the Church today and for us as individuals.

IT'S TRUE; HE IS GOD!

DEALING WITH ERROR (1 John 4:1-6)

- This has always been an issue.
- It's about the truth of who Christ is.
- Truth assumes absolutes.
- We live in a time, and within a culture, that is most comfortable with ambiguity.

HE IS LOVE!

WHAT IS GOD? GOD IS LOVE (1 John 4:7-8)

- It has been stated that “love does not define God, but that God defines love.”
- God's holiness is expressed in love.
- All that God does expresses love.
- Even His judgments are an expression of love.

HOW DID HE EXPRESS IT IN A MAJOR WAY? HE SENT HIS SON (1 John 4:9-11)

- Because God is love, He must express or communicate it.
- God does this with His words, as well as His actions.
- The greatest expression of God's love was in the form of Christ.
- His death for our sins is the ultimate expression.

HOW IS HE STILL LOVING US? GOD ABIDES IN US (1 John 4:12-16)

- God chose to set up His presence in us.
- This is the most intimate relationship that man can have.

REFLECTION

1. Have you understood and believed who the Scriptures say that Christ is?
2. Have you understood and experienced His love as expressed in His death for your sins?
3. Are you aware of His abiding presence in your life?

*More on “assurance” and “evidence” next week.

¹*New American Standard Bible*: 1995 Update. 1995 (1 Jn 5:13). La Habra, CA:
The Lockman Foundation