

# FINAL ENCOURAGEMENTS

1 John 5:13-21



## SYNOPSIS

John reminds us again that we can have confidence as beloved sons and daughters of God. John reminds us that as children, we have confidence that we are loved and protected, we have confidence that we are provided for, and we have confidence that we have access to the Father. He reminds the church that we have access to the Father through prayer, and that we ought to love one another through prayer and intercession, particularly for those that are going astray.

John also talks about a sin that leads to death and a sin that does not lead to death. In our understanding of sin, though all wrongdoing is sin, not all sin has the same consequence and severity. In our case, John is not talking about the condition of sin (that leads to death), but the expression of sin that varies in consequence and severity. John encourages us to be mindful of the dangers of sin and to pray for those who are going astray.

Lastly, John commands the church to stay away from idols. We see that there are two forces at play in our passage - God and Satan (the evil one). Whereas Satan has come to kill steal and destroy, Jesus has come to give us life in the fullest sense.

Idols are not only relevant to their time, but for us as well. In their time, Artemis was the main idol who protected fertility - but what these idols represented are the same things we chase after: fertility, success, power, wealth, comfort. We too are commanded to stay away from the idols of our day and age. In this command, we see John imploring us to choose the agenda of God - choose life, stay away from idols.



## OUTLINE

1

### CONFIDENCE AS CHILDREN OF GOD

We are told that we can have confidence as beloved children of God. As children of God, we have confidence that our Father in Heaven loves us, protects us, provides for us, and that we have direct access to Him. John tells a frightened and weary church that they can trust in the fact that they are beloved sons and daughters of God.

2

### SIN THAT LEADS TO DEATH

Often times we conflate the condition of sin and the act of sin, but John talks about the expression of sin that gradually leads towards death. Each sin leads to deeper and graver sin when we don't turn back towards God, and John encourages the family of God to pray for those who are being led astray.

3

### COUNTERFEIT GODS

Lastly, John talks about the agenda of the evil one that comes to kill steal and destroy. Idols/Counterfeit gods also carry the same agenda, to have us take on their yoke upon us, but whereas Jesus' yoke is easy and his burden is light, their yoke is difficult and their burden heavy. John implores us to stay away from the allure of idols, so that we may experience the fullness of life from the Father.



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church



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

What does it mean to have direct access to God at any time? How does that change how you approach life? How does that affect how you approach prayer?

2

What expressions of sin have you seen in your life grow from something benign to something extremely detrimental?

3

Have you experienced the "fullness of life" by living in the kingdom of God? What did it look like? What did it feel like?

4

How do we yoke ourselves to Jesus? What does it mean to you be ourselves to Jesus with the burden of life?

5

What idols are prevalent in your life? What idols do you have difficulty removing from your life?



## BIG IDEA

As we wrap up the series, the big idea of the letter is few, but important. John encourages us to believe what is true, to have the right practice/actions that reflect our beliefs, and to have the right posture in love. And as we do so, that we would come to experience the fullness of life that Jesus has come to offer. As we yoke ourselves to Jesus, that Jesus would teach us the truth and show us the way.

