

WHERE'S THE PROOF?

1 John 3:24 - 4:16



SYNOPSIS

We start out in our passage with this idea that there is a tangible aspect to our faith that can and should be proven. John makes quite a few statements throughout his letter that force us to consider whether we have proof of our relationship with God - and we see that the proof that we live in Him is found in our obedience to His commands. The proof that He lives in us is found in the fact that His Holy Spirit dwells within us.

As we consider that, we are reminded that the Holy Spirit is not just an accessory to our lives, but the very presence of God that dwells within us, leading us and directing us - shaping us and transforming us. We are reminded that the Holy Spirit dwells in us. And John tells us that the Holy Spirit that dwells us leads us in discernment between truth and falsehood, because there are false spirits that seek to lead us astray. We see how John points out these false spirits as the worldviews and ideologies that come to wreak havoc on people - some blatant, and some very subtly. As children of God, we need to discern and be weary of false spirits, but we don't need to be overwhelmed.

As we discern between truth and falsehood, three things to consider: Why is truth important? How essential is it that I know the truth? How do we discern truth? Ultimately, we want to build our lives around truth, discerning between essential and non-essential truths. We want to have humility and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. We need to have a life of prayer, being in community, learning and trusting the Word of God.

Finally, we are to love one another - John calls the church "beloved" - ones who have experienced the agape love personally because of the love of Jesus. We may be used to a love that says "Because you are valuable, therefore I love you. But agape love says "Because I love you, you are valuable." And we understand that God loves us not because we are valuable, but He loves us and thus assigns value to us. As we have experienced that love, we also ought to demonstrate that love to others.



OUTLINE

1

PROOF OF OUR UNION WITH GOD

The proof that we see in our union with God is predicated on us keeping God's command (on our end) and the Holy Spirit residing in us (on His end). We see that there is a tangible aspect to our relationship with God that can and should be proven.

2

DISCERNING BETWEEN TRUTH AND FALSEHOOD

Two things to consider as we think about His Holy Spirit in our life. What is the Holy Spirit doing in us and through us? As we discern between truth and falsehood, we also need to determine why truth is important, how essential it is that we know the truth, and how we are to discern truth.

3

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

John calls the church beloved (agapetoi), because they are ones who have experienced the agape love of Jesus. And as we have experienced this love, we are to also love one another with this kind of love. We can come into a friendship/relationship seeking value, but John reminds us that the love we are to demonstrate is one that love and therefore assigns value, rather than loving because of value that we can receive.



kairos
church



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

What is the Holy Spirit doing in and through you right now?

2

What lies have you believed in the past and lived by? How did that affect you, your life and your relationship with God?

3

Have you ever battled/fought over a non-essential truth? What effect did it have over your relationship with others? With God?

4

What is the difference between God's "agape" love and the world's love?

5

How can we love others like God loves us? Without calculating the value of a relationship?



BIG IDEA

The proof of our union with God is predicated on us keeping God's command and the Holy Spirit residing in us. As we learn how to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, we also grow in discernment between truth and falsehood. Similarly, the proof of our union with God is predicated on us loving one another as God has loved us. This "agape" type of love is one that has been shown to us - where God does not love us because of the value that we can return to Him, but because He loves us, we are valuable. When we seek to love one another, we also desire to grow in this "agape" love. We want to love one another and bring a redemptive value and worth to the people that we love. And by doing so, we are displaying the proof of our belonging to God and to one another.

