

“By This We Know” - PROOF OF ABIDING

◆ *Scripture Reading:*

◆ I John 3:14-24



INTRODUCTION

◆ We need to remind ourselves how we arrived, in John's first letter, to the subject of abiding (feeling at ease in Christ and Christ in us)
I Cor 6:17, Jn 14:20

◆ **1.** At initial salvation, the believer is:

◆ Placed into a position in Christ

◆ Christ's spirit essence is joined to our spirit essence

INTRODUCTION

- ◇ 2. In Christ, we are made the righteousness of God - II Cor 5:21
- ◇ 3. When the NT grace-believer is at ease in Christ, THEN Christ will feel at ease in the believer

INTRODUCTION

- ◇ 4. This “at ease” relationship will produce **fruit, more fruit, much fruit** of Christ-like character
 - ◇ Jn 15:1-5
 - ◇ This fruit will be displayed by keeping Christ’s new commandment to “**love one another**”

INTRODUCTION

In John's first letter, he gives us several proofs about knowing in our experience that we are abiding in Christ's new commandment.



8x in this letter, John uses the phrase “by this we are (experientially) knowing” to give proof of our relationship to Christ and His will for us.

BY THIS: We Experientially Know Agape Love: Laying Down Our Lives for the Brethren I Jn 3:16

“Lives” = lit. “souls” (emotional life)

- Illustration of Onesiphorus – II Tim 1:15-18

Loving by giving of your goods –
vs 17

Loving by putting our words into
actions – vs 18

- “...and truth” cf Rom 13:8, Gal 6:1-2

**BY THIS: Loving in Deed and in Truth,
We Experientially Know (this) Truth
I Jn 3:19-23**

- ◇ 1. By loving this way, we persuade our hearts before Him – 19b
- ◇ 2. If our heart blames us (vs 20) for:
 - ◇ Not loving, but hating
 - ◇ Loving only in word or tongue
- ◇ 3. God is greater than our hearts and experientially knows all things
 - ◇ Act 15:8, II Tim 2:19, I Jn3:9

**BY THIS: Loving in Deed and in Truth,
We Experientially Know (this) Truth
I Jn 3:19-23 (continued)**

- ◇ 4. If our heart does not blame us (vs 21):
 - ◇ We have boldness facing God
 - ◇ Whatever we ask from Him, we receive (vs 22)
 - ◇ Cf Jn 15:7, I Jn 5:14-15

- ◇ 5. The Father's commandment, that we should (keep on) believing on the name (work and character) of His Son will result in love toward all other believers (vs 23)
 - ◇ Cf Jn 12:49-50

**BY THIS: Keeping His Commandments,
We Experientially Know that He (Christ)
Abides (feels at ease) in Us
I Jn 3:24**

- ◇ This experiential knowledge come out of the ministry of the Holy Spirit
- ◇ Cf Rom8:16, I Jn 4:13

CONCLUSION

- ◆ The eternal security of a believer is based upon GOD and HIS WORD
- ◆ The assurance of a believer's salvation is based upon the proof of our experiential knowledge of feeling at ease in our position in Christ and living out that positional relationship by loving other believers in our works and in truth