

1 John: Overview

Purpose: Written so we can tell the difference between an authentic Christ follower and a simulated relationship.

10 Spiritual Tests: Scattered through 22 different passages

If we want a relationship with God, there is one thing we must never forget.

1 John 1:5; Genesis 3:1-5; Hebrews 11:6

- God is light, in Him there is NO darkness at all.
- The moment we start to doubt God's goodness, we're headed for spiritual trouble.

Two questions that separate spiritual frauds and Genuine Christ followers.

1. The Basic Morality Question: Am I walking in the Light?

1 John 1:6-7; Galatians 5:19-21; Matthew 5:14-16; John 3:19-21; Ephesians 5:8-16; 2 Peter 1:3-11

2. The Spiritual Humility Question: Will I admit that I have done wrong?

1 John 1:8-2:2; Romans 3:23 & 6:23; Romans 7:14-25; Galatians 2:21; Romans 5:6-10

Food for thought

Talking through the message with someone during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

John's big picture purposes for writing 1 John were to widen the circle of people who shared fellowship with him and with the Lord (see 1 John 1:3-4) and to make it easier to tell the difference between a spiritual poser and a genuine Christian (see 1 John 5:13).

It's important to note that he equates fellowship with other Christians as a key by-product of genuine fellowship with God. Yet despite the importance of being in good relationships with other Christians, we sometimes find ourselves isolated and withdrawn from both God and other Christians. Read what the writer of the book of Hebrews says about combating tendencies toward isolation.

Hebrews 3:12-14

Hebrews 10:24-26

What is the best way for someone to encourage you spiritually and the best way for you to personally stay connected to others?

This week we saw the importance of both *Basic Morality* and *Spiritual Humility*. Admitting that we've sinned and need forgiveness is an absolute essential step for anyone wanting to get started with Jesus. It also greatly impacts how we treat others.

Read Matthew 5:3-11.

Here Jesus gives a list of attitudes and actions that lead to His blessings. How do you think a strong sense of *Spiritual Humility* would impact the way a person lives out these attitudes and actions? Be as specific as possible.

PRAYER TIPS:

Use these prayer tips to talk it over with God:

- God am I in a real Relationship with you or am I faking it?
- Help me to daily walk in the light of who you are and the path you have for me.
- Protect me from lies that doubt your goodness.
- Help me to live humbly everyday, to be honest in my failings and to regularly seek your forgiveness.