



I John 5:6-21

Scripture Memory

I John 1:10

“If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

To make the statement, “we have not sinned,” *makes a mockery of the gospel. It states that the reason God acted in grace and mercy toward us for the sake of our sins is false, that God first deceived us about ourselves and then becomes himself the Deceiver.*

For someone to make this false claim (v. 10a) attacks the character of God and reveals that God’s message of redemption has no place in his life: “his word is not in us.”

Glenn W. Barker, “I John” in *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981), 12:313.

Sunday School Lesson Notes

Key Thought on I John 5:21

“Little children, keep yourselves from idols.”

Few people today bow to idols of wood and metal. Nevertheless, other idols capture their attention and affection. Covetousness, for example, is idolatry (Col. 3:5). A man may worship his bankbook or his stock portfolio just as fervently as a so-called heathen worships is ugly idol...The thing we serve is the thing we worship! Whatever controls our lives and “calls the signals” is our god...When “things” take God’s place in our lives, we are guilty of idolatry.

Warren Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary: New Testament, Volume II* (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook Publishers, 1989), p. 531.

Questions to Consider

As you answer the questions and prepare for Sunday school, carefully read I John 5:6-21.

1. I John 5:6 and 8 list three witnesses in earth that prove Jesus is God: the Spirit, the water and the blood. The Spirit is obviously the Holy Spirit, but to what is John referring when he includes the “water” and the “blood?” Hint: During what two key events in the life of our Lord did God the Father give testimony to the deity of Jesus of Nazareth? (Matthew 3:13-17 and 27:45, 50-53)
2. According to I John 5:6, why is the Spirit’s witness completely reliable?
3. Read Deuteronomy 19:15. What is the significance (especially for a Jewish reading audience) of including “three that bear witness” in I John 5:8?
4. According to I John 5:10a, who is the internal witness (to the deity of Jesus Christ) in those who have believed on the Son of God?

Consider: His witness is our inner confidence that we belong to Christ—not a confidence that we “work up” for ourselves, but a confidence that God gives us. Warren Wiersbe, p. 527.

5. John states his purpose for writing this epistle in I John 5:13. From John’s purpose, what benefit do believers enjoy?
6. According to I John 5:14, what is the condition to be met in order for believers to enjoy confidence in their prayer lives?

Consider: The most important thing about prayer is the will of God. We must take time to ascertain what God’s will is in a matter, especially searching in the Bible for promises or principles that apply to our situation. Once we know the will of God, we can pray with confidence and then wait for Him to reveal the answer. Warren Wiersbe, p. 529.

7. What is the spiritual difference between believers and the world according to I John 5:19?