

Proof of Life: Overcoming by Testimony

1 John 5:1-12

Introduction

- Flows out of 1 John 4:7-21
- Summary of the book leading to the stated purpose of the book in conclusion
- This section helps us make sure we didn't "miss it" when it comes to understanding John's letter, which we've been in all summer
- The "proof of life" (that you have eternal life) summed up in this passage would essentially be: True Believers believe that Jesus is the Christ, love God, obey Him joyfully, overcome the world, are cleansed by the Spirit, feel the testimony of the Spirit, and, therefore, have assurance of eternal life.
- The context is continuing to deal with a church that has been besieged by false teachers, who appear to have since left, but their false teaching has left many wondering about the Faith. John attacks the distinctives of what is sound doctrine and false teaching while exhorting the believers to be certain of their faith because it is God that has saved them in Christ Jesus, which will be marked by fruitful deeds.
- Overcoming by Testimony – What is "overcoming"? VICTORY. What is "the world"? SINFUL DESIRES, FALSE TEACHERS, SATAN. What overcomes the world? FAITH.
- What is Testimony? Simple: Giving evidence.
- Who has this testimony? Everyone... who believes!

Overcoming by Testimony of Love (vv.1-5)

- **Evidence of Loving God (vv.1-3)**
 - **In Conversion:** Regeneration – Faith – Love (John's main point being the fruit of a regenerated life)
 - **In Community:** Loving the body in our obedience to God
 - **In Joy:** Loving obedience is absent of burden and full of joy

- **Evidence of Loving God Victoriously (vv.4-5)**

- **In Conversion:** New Birth is evidenced in victory (implications of "losing" to the world regularly)
- **By Faith:** Faith is the victory that has overcome the world (The World: **1 John 2:15-17; 4:4-5**)
- **By Confession of Faith:** Jesus IS the Son of God

Overcoming by Testimony of Life (vv.6-12)

- **Evidence of Life in Confessing Christ (vv.6-9)**

- **John 20:30-31**, *"30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."*
- **Water AND Blood:** Most likely dealing with the claim of the false teachers that Christ was indeed "rabbi-like" and did good things, but they denied His deity. The water most likely represents the testimony of God at the baptism of Christ, the earthly inauguration of His ministry, and something men saw.
- **Confessing Christ as all-man / all-God**
- **Confessing the Testimony of the Spirit**
- **Confessing a Testimony of Three** (Spirit, water, blood) – an all-sufficient Christ
- **Confessing the Testimony of God reveals possession by God** – This is significant: THE testimony of God is Jesus Christ (the logos, the speech). To claim to know a God who bears any other testimony is NOT to know God. This is why it is (frankly) very problematic to call God "Allah" even with the ambition to evangelize Muslims. There is one God and He bears testimony about His Son!

- **Evidence of Life in Possessing Christ (vv.10-12)**

- **Life Given by God (v.10):** To know this God you must believe His testimony. No one has eternal life that calls God a liar. Denying Christ in confession and/or behavior is calling God a "liar."

- **Life Given by God in Christ (v.11):** Where the testimony of God is Jesus Christ, the testimony of God concerning His Son is that He has given His own eternal life.
- **Life Given by God in Christ for life (v.12):** There is no other way (**Acts 4:12**, *“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*).

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

- **Do you have eternal life?** You can know if you have the Son, Jesus Christ. Do you have Jesus Christ? You can know if you confess Him as the perfect God-man shedding His blood in your place to satisfy a Holy God, making a way for you, and desire to follow Him. Because Christ has overcome even the grave, His children overcome this world!
- **To the College Student...** Most of you know that college life is an assault on the senses and the flesh. As well, you are grappling to possess your beliefs as your own. Will the world overcome you or will you overcome the world? Only true believers overcome the world. Perhaps you're a believer living in defeat. Miserable. Return to following Christ. Love Him in the community of saints. Satan wants you isolated. You need the people of God.
- **To UBC...** Once again we are faced with loving one another in very tangible ways. Are we a body marked by a victorious, joy-filled kind of love for God and His church?