

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

**In preparation for Sunday, December 19, 2021**

**Passage: 1 John 5:21**

Memory Passage: 1 John 5:21

### **DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 1 John 5:21.** Does this final verse in 1 John fit? Is it out of place? Does it make sense?

Explain your answer.

(b) What relationship exists between vs. 18-20 & 21? How do they connect in context?

(c) By “idols,” does John refer to carved figures and the like or something else? Explain your answer.

(d) Considering the context of the entirety of John’s letter, what did John expect his original audience to understand by his use of “idols?”

### **DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 1 John 5:21, Ps. 115:3-8, & 135:15-18.** Write your own definition of what constitutes an idol.

(b) Given these descriptions of idols, how might 5:21 form an inclusio (bookends) with 1:1-4?

(c) How does idolatry impact one’s willingness to obey God’s commands?

(d) John writes to believers to increase their assurance. How does ending his letter with this command increase a believer’s assurance that they do indeed have eternal life (5:13)?

### **DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 1 John 5:21.** For the next several days, we will consider 5:21 in light of the three tests John provides us. Think through the entire letter and all John has to say about the Moral Test of Obedience (cf. 2:3-8, 2:27-3:10, et al.). In what ways do your idols and your idolatry inhibit your obedience to God’s commands? For example (and this is only one of many, so don’t stop with this), God commands that you be generous and that you do so cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:6ff). Spend time asking God to reveal the inner motives of your heart, the outward manifestation of obedience, and any areas in which you deceive yourself in the area of obedience to God’s commands.

(b) Write down at least 5 ways you will keep yourself from idolatry in these areas.

**DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 1 John 5:21.** Think through the entire letter and all John has to say about the Social Test of Love (cf. 2:7-11, 3:11-24, et al.). In what ways do your idols and idolatry inhibit your love for God and others? For example (and this is only one of many, so don't stop with this), God commands that you do not love the world or the things in the world (1 John 2:15-17, Mark 8:34-37, et al.). Spend time asking God to reveal the inner motives of your heart, the outward manifestation of obedience, and any areas in which you deceive yourself in the area of loving God and others.

(b) Write down at least 5 ways you will keep yourself from idolatry in these areas.

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 1 John 5:21.** Think through the entire letter and all John has to say about the Doctrinal Test of Belief/Truth (cf. 2:18-27, 4:1-6, et al.). In what ways do your idols and idolatry inhibit your ability to discern and act upon truth? For example (and this is only one of many, so don't stop with this), God commands that you worship Him in Spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24). Spend time asking God to reveal the inner motives of your heart, the outward manifestation of obedience, and any areas in which you deceive yourself in this area.

(b) Write down at least 5 ways you will keep yourself from idolatry in these areas.

**DATE: December 19, 2021**

**PASSAGE: 1 John 5:21**

*Keep Yourself from Idols*