

Intro:

XIV. Holy Affections

A. Differences between Believers and Unbelievers

1. The law is written on our hearts - **Ro 2:14-15**

- a. everyone has to some degree the innate ability to recognize right and wrong
- b. together with one's conscience that accuses or excuses their actions

2. The conscience

- a. a guilt producing warning device given to all
- b. not independent system of morality, operates based on knowledge and belief system that informs it, which shows the importance of
  - i. parenting
  - ii. The Word of God's influence in their developmental stages of life

3. The Conscience and the believer

a. The change made in a believer

- i. what they know
  - having been born again - **1 Pet 1:23**
  - Are being sanctified - **Jo 17:17**
- ii. Changes made and what their conscience does
  - they desire to know and obey God's word - **1 Jo 2:3-6; 3:6-10**
  - confirm they did right - **Ro 9:1**
  - give joy and godly confidence - **2 Co 1:12**
- iii. If they sin
  - Their conscience indicts them - Jo 8:9; **Ro 2:15**
  - If they continue, their conscience brings fear, depression, and insecure - **Ps 32:3-4; 38:1-8; 40:11-12**

b. the importance of knowing God's law accurately and inform the conscience - **Ps 19:7-9; 119:1-8; Lk 11:28; Jo 8:31-32; Jas 1:21-25**

B. Gratitude - vs 19-20

1. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.

a. **ginosko** - allow, be aware (of), feel, (have) know(-ledge), perceived, be resolved, can speak, be sure, understand.

- i. use of future tense showing that they would understand,
- ii. this knowledge was not intuitive

b. by this refers back to vs 18 - brotherly love

c. of the truth

- i. lit - out of the truth we exist
- ii. Only true believers possess the sacrificial love described in vs 14-18 to live as described in vs 4-12
- iii. Truth as found in Scripture - **Ps 119:160; Jo 17:17**

d. and shall assure our hearts before Him

i. Assurance of salvation comes as we see the serving love for fellow believers exhibited in our lives

ii. **peitho** - to **pacify** or **conciliate** (by other fair means); to assent (to evidence or authority), to rely (by inward certainty):--agree, assure, believe, have confidence, make friend, obey, persuade, trust, yield.

- future active ind.—will assure

- pacify—to quell the anger; conciliate - to stop from being angry

2. For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.
  - a. For if our heart condemns us - the conscience is not always accurate - 1Co 4:4
  - b. God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.
    - i. He has declared us righteous - Ro 8:1
    - ii. Nothing can separate us from the love of God - Ro 8:31-39

B. Boldness - vs 21-22a

1. Doubt ceases when believers walk faithfully -
  - a. if our heart does not condemn us - **Heb 10:22**
  - b. we have confidence toward God. - **Job 22:23, 26;**
    - i. walking in truth - 1Jo 2:28;
    - ii. Walking in love - 1 Jo 4:17
    - iii. *parrhesia* - all out-spokenness, frankness, bluntness, publicity; assurance:--bold (-ly, -ness, -ness of speech), confidence, plainly(-ness).
2. Confidence frees faith
  - a. And whatever we ask
    - i. Hebrews uses *parrhesia* in 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
    - ii. 1Jo 5:14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.
  - b. we receive from Him, - **Jo 14:13-14; 15:7,16; 16:23-24**

C. Submission - vs 22b

1. because we keep His commandments
  - a. we keep - not from compulsion, but b/c of changed character - vs 1-10
  - b. commandments refers back to loving the brethren - vs 13-18
2. and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. - **Heb 13:20-21**
  - a. eliminates the idea of merit
  - b. an obedience deriving from a shared life of Christ Who always did that which pleased the Father

D. Faith - vs 23

1. And this is His commandment:
  - a. saving faith has 3 essential parts - Faith, Hope, and Love
  - b. faith is a God given gift that endures
  - c. faith also responds to His commandment in obedience
2. that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ
  - a. believe is in the aorist form indicating an action that happened in the past with continuing results
  - b. the object of that faith is the name of His Son Jesus Christ
3. and love one another, as He gave us commandment.
  - a. Love is in the Pres active; Indicating a continuous action in the time called now
  - b. not based on feelings but an act of the will based on a new character

E. Appreciation for the Indwelling Holy Spirit - vs 24

1. Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him.
  - a. one of John's favorite words - abides - *meno* - the definition of keeping His commandments
  - b. proof of salvation - and He in him.
2. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.
  - a. the shared life of Christ is only possible "by the Spirit" - **Ro 8:2; 2 Co 3:6**
  - b. by this we know that He abides in us - b/c of the effects of the Spirit - **Jo 3:8**
3. Salvation is not a one time event, it is a way of life