

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

1 JOHN SERIES

These questions are for the **August 13, 2017** sermon, "Knowing in Triplicate." Please read the sermon passage (1 John 5:18-21) together out loud.

SERMON OUTLINE

1. The first certainty (18)
 - a. Everyone who knows God does not keep on sinning.
 - b. The pattern of a believer's life will not be one of hardened, continual sinning.
 - i. Jesus frees believers from the power of sin by his own power.
 - ii. Jesus protects believers from the evil one.
2. The second certainty (19)
 - a. We are from God (God guards those who belong to him).
 - b. The evil one, completely defeated, holds power in this world until Jesus returns.
 - i. "Power": a military unit stranded on a beachhead.
 - ii. Limited, waning power. Dangerous, but limited.
3. The third certainty (20-21)
 - a. Jesus is the one and only true Messiah, the very Son of God.
 - b. He has already come in the flesh.
 - c. He is the "true" ("real, genuine") Messiah; "the real deal."

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Everyone who knows God does not keep on sinning. What evidence is there that you know God? How has the presence of Jesus Christ in your life freed you from old patterns of sin? Are you aware of how the presence of Jesus has protected you from the evil one. Give an example.
2. Based on #2, above: We know that we are from God. While we do not need to emphasize an "us" versus "them" mentality, Jesus taught clearly that we are either for him or against him. How has the certainty that believers are from God strengthened your commitment to Christian community? How can you grow in your commitment to Christian community?
3. Based on #2, above: Satan has power in this world. It's the power of a stranded military unit, surrounded and confined to a beachhead. He is dangerous because he has ammunition and a will to fight, but he has no hope and has already been completely defeated. Yet his influence is broad, including "the whole world." Discuss Satan's power. What mindset/emotion is produced in your soul because you know that Satan's days are numbered? What mindset/emotion is produced in your soul because you know that Satan is dangerous?
4. Based on #3, above: Jesus, and Jesus alone is the genuine article. We know this for sure. This means that we reject every other religion, every conception of Jesus that does not recognize that he has already come, and every conception of Jesus that denies his deity. How does this confidence help you in conversations with unbelievers about Jesus? How might your confidence be interpreted as arrogance? How might we guard against being perceived as arrogant?