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What this message is about. . .

We can have assurance of our faith by living righteously (obedient to Jesus) and by practicing self-sacrificial love.

2

Purpose of this message

To inspire obedient and loving living.

3

1. What does John say about living right living (obedience to Jesus)?

4

a. Right living is motivated by a forward look at the return of Jesus.

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1John 2:28

And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

6

1John 3:1-3

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

7

1John 3:1-3

² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

8

1John 3:1-3

³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

9

b. Right living is inspired by a backward look at the life of Jesus.

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1John 3:5-7

⁵ You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

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1John 3:5-7

⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

12

c. Right living is impossible apart from being born of God.

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1John 3:9

⁹ No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God.

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2. What does John say about loving one another?

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a. The command to love one another is essential to the gospel.

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1John 3:11

For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

17

b. Loving others is evidence that you are of God and have eternal life.

18

1John 3:14

We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers.

19

c. Love is defined and demonstrated by self-sacrifice.

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1John 3:16-17

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷

21

1John 3:16-17

¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

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3. By righteous living and sacrificial loving we give evidence that we are indwelt by God's Spirit.

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1John 3:19-24

²³ And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

24

1John 3:19-24

²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us by the Spirit whom he has given us.

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Next Step:

This week take your spiritual pulse. Are you living in obedience to Jesus and are you practicing self-sacrificial love to those closest to you and other real people in the body of Christ? How is this showing up in your daily routine?

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