



“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – May 30, 2021

To Know Christ...

How do we know that Jesus was sent from the Father? What did God utilize to reassure us of this fact? Often times individuals will make verbose claims of their own grandeur or expertise. How do you decide if they are accurate or simply puffed up full of arrogance? God wanted us all to realize that Jesus was sent by His Father. Jesus said, **“If I alone testify about Myself, My testimony is not true.”** (John 5:31) Beware of those who nearly break their elbow, patting themselves on the back concerning how “great” they are. Jesus said it, let my witness come from others, not myself. (This is a lesson we should all take to heart!)

There are FOUR witnesses that “bear testimony” to reassure those of the first century (as well as us) that Jesus was in fact sent from the Father. It is not without confirmation! God wanted us to listen to the witnesses concerning Jesus in John chapter 5. John the Baptist testified of Jesus and he has testified to the truth (v32-35). He even spoke of Jesus as being the Lamb of God (He would be God’s sacrifice for us). The works (or miracles) that the Father gave Jesus to accomplish are an even greater testimony than what John the Baptist had to say concerning Jesus (v36). This is what Nicodemus thought, **“Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”** (John 3:2) Do the miracles of Jesus not make an indelible statement about Jesus? God, the Father Himself, has testified of Jesus, but even the religious people of their day (cough, cough, & ours too) were not attentive to the voice of the Father (v37-38). Even the Scriptures themselves (specifically thinking of the Old Testament Scriptures/Prophets) testify about Jesus (v39). The obvious truth is: If we want to find Eternal Life, we must come to the ONE whom GOD sent (v40).

Take a moment and read the rest of the chapter (John 5:39-47). Notice what all is missing when we refuse to listen to the witnesses concerning Jesus. Since they were unwilling to come to Jesus, they would remain severed from life, especially Eternal Life. Since they cared more about the glory from men, it kept them from having the love of God in themselves. Then Jesus asked

them two final questions. #1 **“How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?”** #2 **“But if you do not believe his [Moses’] writings, how will you believe My words?”** If we refuse the testimony of these FOUR witnesses, it leaves us as unbelievers, severed from God.

If we refuse these witnesses that bear testimony confirming that God the Father sent Jesus, we will remain as unbelievers (even if we are religious), alienated from Eternal Life & even rejecting the Love of God from abiding within ourselves. When we seek the glory of men, we will keep ourselves severed from the Savior that was sent by God, the Father, to forgive. Ever wonder why the love of God does not abide within us? Ever wonder why we feel no reassurance of having Eternal Life even though we are very religious? Listen to the witnesses & believe that Jesus was sent from the Father. As we respond out of faith, we find Eternal Life (in Jesus) and the Love of God poured out from within (through His Spirit, Romans 5:5).

- Carey Terry