

“Let us teach the New Testament!”

First Epistle of John

Lesson 8, 1 John 3:19-24

1john.currah.download September 2019

Introduction

In this eighth of 15 lessons on the New Testament Book of 1 John, we shall deal with these ten topics.

1. 1 John 3:19-24 in the *English Standard Version* (2016)
2. 1 John 3:19-24 SBL *Greek NT* (2010) with English interlinear
3. Greek textual variants in 1 John 3:19-24
4. Parallels between 1 John 3:19-24 and the Gospel of John
5. Analytical outline of 1 John 3:19-24
6. Important vocabulary and historical meanings
7. Greek grammar: active, middle and passive verbs
8. Teachable points from 1 John 3:19-24
9. Historical Christian doctrines: Holy Trinity, Assurance
10. Practical applications of 1 John 3:19-24 for Christians

1. The *English Standard Version* text of 1 John 3:19-24

¹⁹ By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰ for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.

²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²² and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

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 Whoever 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.

2. Interlinear Greek-English Text of 1 John 3:19-24

19 By this we shall know that of the truth we are and before him shall reassure
19 ἐν τούτῳ γνωσόμεθα ὅτι ἐκ τῆς ἀληθείας ἐσμέν, καὶ ἔμπροσθεν αὐτοῦ πείσομεν

The heart our; 20 for whenever condemns our the heart, because greater is the God
τὴν καρδίαν ἡμῶν 20 ὅτι ἐὰν καταγινώσκη ἡμῶν ἡ καρδία, ὅτι μείζων ἐστὶν ὁ θεὸς

the heart our, and he knows all things. 21 Beloved, if the heart not should-condemns
τῆς καρδίας ἡμῶν καὶ γινώσκει πάντα. 21 ἀγαπητοί, ἐὰν ἡ καρδία μὴ καταγινώσκη

us, confidence we have before the God; 22 and what ever we ask we receive from him,
ἡμῶν, παρρησίαν ἔχομεν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, 22 καὶ ὃ ἐὰν αἰτῶμεν λαμβάνομεν ἀπ’
αὐτοῦ,

because the commandments his we keep and the right things before him we do.
ὅτι τὰς ἐντολὰς αὐτοῦ τηροῦμεν καὶ τὰ ἀρεστὰ ἐνώπιον αὐτοῦ ποιοῦμεν.

23 And this is the commandment his, that we should believe in the name of the Son his
23 καὶ αὕτη ἐστὶν ἡ ἐντολὴ αὐτοῦ, ἵνα πιστεύσωμεν τῷ ὀνόματι τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ

Jesus Christ and we should love one another, as he gave commandment to us.
Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ καὶ ἀγαπῶμεν ἀλλήλους, καθὼς ἔδωκεν ἐντολήν ἡμῖν.

24 And the one keeping the commandments his in him abides and he in him.
24 καὶ ὁ τηρῶν τὰς ἐντολὰς αὐτοῦ ἐν αὐτῷ μένει καὶ αὐτὸς ἐν αὐτῷ.

And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom to us gave.
καὶ ἐν τούτῳ γινώσκομεν ὅτι μένει ἐν ἡμῖν, ἐκ τοῦ πνεύματος οὗ ἡμῖν ἔδωκεν.

3. Manuscript Variants in 1 John 3:19-24

Besides minor differences of word order, which hardly matter in Greek, existent Greek manuscripts contain the following variant readings. Download from 1john.currah.download a more complete list of variants.

3:19 From the 4th century, some manuscripts omit “And” from the beginning of the verse.

3:21 One 4th century manuscript reads, “Brothers” instead of “Beloved.”

From the 4th century, a few manuscripts have “condemn” in the indicative mood, instead of the subjunctive mood.

From the 4th century, three manuscripts read, “it has” instead of “we have.”

3:23 From the 4th century, some manuscripts have “we believe” in the present tense instead of in the aorist tense.

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From the 5th century, a few manuscripts omit “in the name of” or omit “his Son.”

4. Parallels between 1 John 3:19-24 and the Gospel of John

1 John	Gospel of John
Love one another 3.11, 23	Love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another 13:34; 15:12
We are of the truth 3.19	Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice 18.37
We do things pleasing in his sight 3.22	I always do the things that are pleasing to him 8.29
Who keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. This is how we know ... by the Spirit whom he has given us 3.24	Whoever has my commandments and keeps them ... and we will come to him and make our home with him 14.21, 23

5. Analytical outline for preachers, teachers and groups leaders.

Part 3: **Our Christian Faith** 3.19 – 5.5

VIII. **We Have Assurance** 3.19-24

A. We reassure our heart 3.19-20

1. We belong to the truth 3.19
 - a. We reassure ourselves
 - b. Whenever our conscience condemns us
2. God is greater than our heart 3.20

B. We have confidence before God 3.21-23

1. When our conscience is clear 3.21
2. God grants us our prayers 3.22
 - a. We obey his commandments 3.23
 - (1) Believe in the Name of Jesus Christ
 - (2) Love one another
 - b. We do what pleases him

C. We abide in God 3.24

1. We keep his commandments
2. We have his Spirit

6. Important terms and their historical meanings in 1 John 3:19-24

Definitions condensed from Bauer, Arndt, Gingrich and Danker, *Greek Lexicon* (2001).
Download from 1john.currah.download a more complete list.

condemn καταγινώσκω *kataginôskô*
condemn, convict ... unfavorable judgment ... 1J 3:20.

confidence παρρησία *parasia*
3 a state of boldness and confidence, *courage, confidence, boldness, fearlessness*, especially in the presence of persons of high rank... **b** in relation to God... Here joyousness, confidence is the result or the accompaniment of faith ... 1J 3:21; cp. 5:14.

name ὄνομα *onoma*
1 proper name of an entity, name ... something real, a piece of the very nature of the personality whom it designates, expressing the person's qualities and powers... The name appears almost as the representation of the Godhead, as a tangible manifestation of the divine nature ... 1J 3:23.

reassure πείθω *peithô*
1 to cause to come to a particular point of view or course of action. ... **d** conciliate, pacify, set at ease/rest ... 1J 3:19

Spirit πνεῦμα *pneuma*
5 God's being as controlling influence, with focus on association with humans, Spirit ... as the divine power that produces all divine existence, as the divine element in which all divine life is carried on, as the bearer of every application of the divine will. All those who belong to God possess or receive this spirit and hence have a share in God's life. This spirit also serves to distinguish Christians from all unbelievers ... 1J 3:24.

7. Greek grammar of 1 John 3:19-24. The verbal middle voice

Greek has separate verbal forms for the Active, Middle and Passive "voices." Most languages have an active voice ("John loves *others*"), many languages have no passive voice ("John is loved *by others*"), and a few, like Greek, have a middle voice ("John loves *himself*").

First John frequently employs two verbs meaning "to know," usually in the active voice ("We know him." "We know that...") Download from 1john.currah.download, Lesson 3, "What Christians know.")

In 1 John 3:19, the verb "we shall know" occurs in the Future tense and Middle voice. The future implies that this knowledge depends on confidence before God, and the middle makes it an intensely personal experience: "We shall know for certain" or "for ourselves."

Only teach about Greek grammar, if learners are able to understand it and are eager to learn.

8. Teachable points from 1 John 3:19-24

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you teachable ideas and summaries from the passage. In small gatherings, let others help each other find these in their Bibles. For example:

Christian salvation

1. We know we are of the truth 3:19
2. We are God's beloved 3:21
3. We believe in the name of his Son 3:23
4. We abide in God, and God abides in us 3:24
5. God has given us his Spirit 3:24

Christian experience

1. We reassure our heart before God 3:19
2. We have confidence before God 3:21
3. Our heart does not condemn us 3:21
4. We keep his commandments 3:22
5. Whatever we ask we receive from him 3:22
6. We love one another 3:23
7. We know that he abides in us 3:24

God

1. God is greater than our heart 3:20
2. God knows everything 3:20
3. We receive from God whatever we ask 3:21
4. Our obedience pleases God 3:22
5. God has commanded us 3:23
6. God abides in us 3:24
7. God has given us his Spirit 3:24

The Trinity

1. God who knows everything 3:20
2. His Son Jesus Christ 3:23
3. The Spirit whom he has given us 3:24

Confidence before God

1. If our heart does not condemn us 3:21
2. Because we keep his commandments 3:22
3. By the Spirit whom he has given us 3:24

9. Historical Christian doctrines: Holy Trinity, Assurance

Holy Trinity. The only eternal God has revealed that he exists as three equal “Persons” or “Powers,” that the Bible calls the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. God the Father remains invisible, ruling over all things visible and invisible. God the Son became the human being, Jesus Christ who dwelt on earth, died, rose back to life, and has ascended into heaven. God the Holy Spirit, although invisible, dwells amongst Christians on earth, empowering them to lead a holy life. These three Persons remain One God forever.

Assurance. God grants to Christians confidence that they have eternal life and will live with Jesus Christ forever. This confidence comes from several sources: (1) from the promises of Jesus and his apostles, recorded in the New Testament, (2) from the presence of the Holy Spirit in their midst and within them, (3) from many answers to requests they make to God, and (4) from the love that Christians have one for another. This sense of assurance enables Christians to face threats, dangers and even death with confidence that they please God who will reward them richly in their next life.

10. Practical application of 1 John 3:19-24 for Christians

After someone or several have read or recited 1 John 3:19-24 in small gatherings of learners, pose queries such as these:

- What have you learnt from this passage about God?
- What have you learnt from this passage about confidence before God?
- What have you learnt from this passage about prayer?

Whilst preaching, teaching or leading, recommend ways in which to apply the passage or put it into practice. For example:

- Review seven basic commandments of Jesus.
- Invite everyone to admit to God their bad memories and anything that troubles their conscience, asking him to forgive them and to restore their confidence before him.
- Invite non-Christians to put their trust in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, asking God to give them his Holy Spirit.
- Remind Christians that God wants us to choose to show love for fellow Christians, by helping the needy and by forgiving Christians who may have offended us.

Conclusion

- Download documents for this lesson at 1john.currah.download.
- Read five times 1 John 4:1-6, before you view the next video lesson.