

Biblical Families, Part 14 | the Confidence

I. Biblical Families are confident that they have eternal life. | John 5:13

- I John is not just about reading some uplifting and inspiring content that makes you feel good and distracts you from any doubt that you might have. It's about a checklist, a rubric, a set of identifiers to which you can look to know if you truly do have eternal life.
- You're not perfect. You sin, but if after working through this study you clearly see how God is working in your life to convict and change and empower you to glorify Him, then you can be abundantly confident that you are a child of His.

II. Biblical Families are confident that God hears their requests. | John 5:14-15

- God is not promising to simply give us whatever we want. He's very clear that He will answer our requests as long as they are "according to His will." That is a very important caveat. Our request needs to be in submission to the desires the Father outlines in His Word.
- He knows best. We should strive to conform our requests to His clearly revealed will.

III. Biblical Families are confident that they can intervene for their brothers. | John 5:16-17

- We can be confident that God wants us to interact with and engage our family in discipleship. We talked about the one another's earlier and saw how they are an important part in the discipleship in which we're all supposed to engage.
- Whether it's praying for our sinning brothers and sisters in Christ or it's what we learn in James 5:19-20, we are confident that God wants us intervening. We know for sure that He wants to use us in the spiritual growth of our families.

IV. Biblical Families are confident that they can sin less. | John 5:18

- John is communicating here that "*no one who has been born of God [repeatedly and unapologetically] sins.*"
- You will sin, but how you respond to that sin is key. Do you run to Jesus your Advocate? Do you confess your sin, ask for forgiveness, and commit to change? If so, then God will use this process to mature you. By His grace, you will find that sins you used to commit are no longer a temptation. Of course, there will likely be some temptations that will forever haunt you, but you won't give in to them as often.

V. Biblical Families are confident that they belong to God. | John 5:19

- Christians can be confident that they do not belong to this World system. The World is floundering in the dark. It's beliefs and rules and expectations should mean nothing to us. We are of God. That means that we are new creatures who should function differently. We have a different set of expectations and a heavenly city toward which we should be living and moving.
- This means that we don't need to worry about the criticism this World levies against us. This is not to say that unsaved people can't be used by God to convict us of things.
- Their secular criticisms that contradict the Scripture don't have to impact us and definitely shouldn't influence us.

VI. Biblical Families are confident that Jesus has come, that they can know Him, and that they are in Him. I John 5:20

- If you're still doubting Who and What Jesus is, then your lack of confidence that the Scriptures show us how to live the best way possible is understandable.
- But those of us indwelt by the Holy Spirit believe with all of our hearts that Jesus is fully man and fully God. He came to this earth to live a perfect life, die a substitutionary death, rise again in defeat of sin and hell, and ascend back to the Father to rule as King. And because of that, we have absolute truth and eternal life.

VII. Biblical Families are confident that they must worship God and reject all other worship. I John 5:21

- Some have been confused by the abrupt and—seemingly—disconnected sentiment at the end of the letter, but there could have been no better way to end. This statement sums up John's whole heart for us—his audience.
- First, John reminds us that he loves us. His letter is blunt, uncompromising, and could even sound harsh to those who are currently lying to themselves. But all though he has communicated as a fatherly figure by clearly and lovingly guiding us through the necessary steps to knowing for certain whether or not we are children of God and what God would have of His children.
- Second, the command to guard ourselves from idols is at the very crux of what it means to be a biblical family.
 - Worship is nothing more or less than showing what we value. If we value God and His commands and His light above all else, we'll obey Him. But if we value our own way more, we'll do what we want to do. In that moment of sin, it was worth it to us to disobey God. Our worth was tied up in what was right in our own eyes. That is idol worship. That is self-worship. That is sin.
 - The word "guard" refers to soldiers guarding something precious. John is using one of the strongest words he knew to explain how hard we must fight to avoid worshipping anything other than our Lord.
 - But true biblical families have all the confidence in the universe that they have everything they need to worship God and stop worshipping themselves. The entire letter of I John was written to show us the way. And it's in this confidence that we know we have eternal life, that God hears our prayers, that we can and must intervene in each others live, because we know we can all sin less, because we're confident that we belong to God and can know Him and live in Him.

LifeWork

- 1. Meditate on God's Word every day.**
- 2. Spend time with God in prayer every day.**
- 3. Assemble with a Bible-preaching church.**
- 4. Participate in your discipleship every day.**