

Community Group Questions
Monday, November 30, 2020

This week's message started with a discussion about the ground of our being. We surmised that the ground of our being is the essence of who we are—our intellect, emotion, and will—it is that which makes us, us. We concluded that cracks on the surface means there's crisis at the core. As you engage in discussion, I encourage you, be honest with the cracks that maybe appearing on the surface of your life. Any attempts to simply cover over them will only serve to save face while the ground of your being continues to erode.

Our Demonstration of Love Shows We Are Favored By God—19-21

"We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him 20 in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things."

John is in effect saying, our love for one another is key evidence that we are of the truth. Share an example of a time when someone shared the love of Christ with you in a significant way?

We tend to think about judgment in regards to others. "Judge not lest thee be judged" (Matthew 7:1). But the reality is the same principle applies to ourselves. We ought not engage in judgment—of any kind—even of ourselves (See 1 Corinthians 4:3-5). We're no more able to declare ourselves condemned than we are able to declare ourselves acquitted. We're simply not in a place to judge. God's knowledge is greater than our hearts in that he knows us deeply—every fault and every failure, and still he forgives us. What's a fault that you're failing to give over to the Lord?

Confidence Before God—21-23

"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 the things that are pleasing in His sight. 23 This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us."

When we come to terms with how deeply we are known than we can acknowledge how deeply we are loved and forgiven, regardless of how deeply flawed we are. God's love and forgiveness should foster in us a confidence to approach God and ask him for whatever we need to live a life of faith that is pleasing to him and he will give it to us. What do you need to ask of God? What do you need him to supply so you can live the life of faith?

Our confidence rest in Jesus' two fold command to believe in Jesus and love others. We are to love with the very ground of our being, all of our heart, soul, and mind. Early we asked a question about a time that someone showed you the love of Jesus in a significant way. Now think back to that moment and ask, "How can I pay it forward?" Remember, love begets love (see 1 John 4:19). Who in your life needs your love and how can you give that love to them?

The Spirit Is Evidence That Jesus Abides With Us

"24 The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us."

Finally, we are told that the Spirit is key evidence that we are abiding with Jesus and Jesus is abiding in us. We know of his indwelling presence because his character is expressed in our behavior. How have you seen the Spirit's character manifested in your life or the life of another?