

You Know When It's Real

LOVE, HONOR AND OBEY (1 John 4:17-5:5)

Theme: A believer's love for God, the Father.

Key word: **Perfect** carries the idea of maturity and completeness

How can we know that our love for the Father is being perfected?

I. We have complete _____ toward God. (1 John 4:17-19)

- Secret of our boldness: "As He is, so also are we in the world."
- A believer in Christ does not have to fear:

the _____:

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life." John 5:24

"Therefore there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1

the _____:

"In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." 1 John 4:10

the _____:

"There no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear." 1 John 4:18

"For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:7

II. We live with open _____ with others. (1 John 4:20-21)

"If someone says, I love God, but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their Christian brothers and sisters." (NLT)

- Example: Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5)
- Spiritual honesty brings _____ and _____ to the person who practices it.

III. We will have joyful _____ to God's Word. (1 John 5:1-3)

Three characteristics of the one who is born of God:

1. He or she has faith in the truth: *"Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ."*
2. He or she has love for God and others: *"Whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him."*
3. He or she demonstrates obedience to the Word: *"When we love God and **observe** His commandments...that we **keep** His commandments."*

The word **observe** has the connotation of *to accomplish, to carry out, or to practice*. It refers to action.

The word **keep** has the connotation of *keeping watch over, guarding, or preserving*. It refers to the heart attitude.

IV. We have total _____ over the world. (1 John 5:4-5)

- Another title for true believers: _____
- The verb form **nikao** (overcomes) means *to conquer, to gain the victory or to defeat*.
"In all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us." Romans 8:37
- Victorious faith is the result of _____.

Practical lessons:

1. Cultivate a closer _____ with Christ.
2. Live in an atmosphere of _____, _____ and _____.
3. Make your prayer life a _____.