

WSU Christian Challenge Study Guide
1 John 5:1-12
11/11/2021

Read 1 John 5:1-12

The Witnesses to Jesus

In verses 6-8, John identifies three witnesses to Jesus: the water, the blood, and the Spirit.

- What is John referring to when he mentions “the water and blood”?
- Why did John emphasize “the blood” in this letter that he wrote to 1st century churches in Turkey?
- Can you think of examples today of groups of people who have Christian roots but have moved away from understanding the blood of Jesus as the exclusive way to have eternal life?
- John says that the water, the blood, and the Spirit *all agree*. What are the implications for us today as we pursue knowing and loving God?

The Testimony about Jesus

John, throughout this letter, has been clarifying the testimony about who Jesus truly is and why he came. We see that emphasis here in this passage: ten times in these twelve verses, John uses a form of the root word for “testify/testimony”.

- What is the testimony about Jesus that John lays out in this passage?
- Does that testimony challenge common cultural understandings of Jesus today? If so, how?

The Power of Jesus

The witnesses to Jesus give us the testimony about Jesus, which has the ability to produce in us the power of Jesus. There are two things here that the power of Jesus produces in us:

1) Loving Obedience (v. 1-3)

- Does it surprise you that John describes loving God as obeying his commandments? Why or why not?
- How is it that Jesus makes it possible for us to obey God without God’s commandments being burdensome?
- Do God’s commandments feel burdensome to you? If so, why do you think that is?

2) Victory Over the World (v. 4-5)

- On what basis do we overcome the world?
- Are you currently experiencing victory over the world or is the world having victory over you? Why do you think that might be?

Application:

1) Know the Testimony about Jesus

- What is your current rhythm or pattern for reading, studying, meditating on, or memorizing God's Word?
- Do you need to make any adjustments this week?

2) Live in the Power of Jesus

- In what ways is your knowledge of Jesus currently being applied through faith into a life lived in the power of Jesus?
- Do you need to make any adjustments this week?