

That You May Know

Jesus, Life, and Idols — 1 John 5:20-21
July 14, 2019

Little children, keep yourself from idols- **1 John 5:21**

I. CHRIST HAS COME

- We who have come to believe on Christ know that he has come in the flesh (1 John 5:6; v. 20).
- By his coming we now have knowledge of the one true God (John 7:28-29, 14:7; 1 Cor. 1:21-25; Heb. 1:1-4).
- Knowing God has been a theme for John in this letter (1 John 2:3-4, 2:13-14, 3:1, 5:20).
- Not only do we know God, but we are in him as well. We are in him because we are in his Son (John 14:19-21, 17:21).
- Jesus Christ is God. In him is eternal life (v. 20; John 1:1-8; 1 John 5:10-12).

II. IDOLATRY - THE TIE THAT BINDS

- Idolatry destroys freedom (Rom. 8:21; 2 Cor. 3:17; Gal. 2:4, 5:1; James 2:12-13).
- Although John may have in mind pagan idolatry in verse 21, he more likely has in mind the false teachers and teaching he has so clearly refuted in this letter (1 Cor. 10:19).
- Idolatry here is likely false conceptions of God. The “imagination” of the false teachers, or the “phantoms” that people chase based on their own false ideas or desires to do what pleases them (1 Cor. 10; 1 Pet. 4:2-4).

KNOW: Jesus has come in the flesh. We know truth through him, and we live in truth through him. He is the true God and eternal life dwells in him. Therefore, we keep ourselves free from idolatry.

DO: Know God. Keep yourselves from idols.

Suggested Reading:

Pleased to Dwell: A Biblical Introduction to the Incarnation by Peter Mead (LifePoint Library #394.1 MEA)

Basic Christianity by John R.W. Stott (LifePoint Library #230 STO).

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read **1 John 5:20-21**

1. What does John tell us that Christians “know” from verses 18-20? Why are these important to know?
2. Why does John keep emphasizing the idea of “truth” in our passage for Sunday?
3. What forms of idolatry do you think are rampant in our culture?
4. How do we battle idolatry in our lives as Christ-followers?
5. What are your main takeaways from our study through 1 John?
6. What specific application can you make in your own life from our passage for Sunday?