

BIG IDEA: A Christian's assurance (certainty) about possessing eternal life, which correlates with an experiential knowledge of God, comes from a law, a principle (law of love) that the Living Word mediates.

Certainty about the possession of eternal life marks the identity of a mature Christian.

If certainty about the possession of eternal life marks the identity of a mature Christian, then consider what John says about how the living word mediates assurance.

John shows us that the living word mediates assurance by means of a high standard, holy substitute, harsh surmise, and humble sphere.

BY A HIGH STANDARD

Do not sin (v. 1).

Do not stray from the light.

"In order to have self-government, you need to have self-discipline. As John Adams said, this constitution was made for moral and religious people. It's wholly inadequate to the government of any other" (The Epoch Times, 12/13/20).

BY A HOLY SUBSTITUTE

Righteous Jesus Christ (cf. Good Samaritan)

Our Advocate

Our Propitiation

Jesus made God's preference for purity (justness) explicit and clear

Leave your gift at the altar (Matt. 5:24)

Obedience better than sacrifice (1 Sam. 15:22)

The Apostle systematically addresses the purity of the church (sin confessing commandment keepers) as the single most significant mediation of the living word.

The church is for the holy, exclusively. Jesus made entrance possible for the whole world. Who does Jesus want in his church?

BY A HARSH SURMISE

The talker is a liar, and the truth is not in him (v.4)

One cannot claim to know an advocate and not acknowledge anything that needs advocating.

The church must not mince words with hypocrisy or heresy.

The liar devoid of truth becomes sin confessing commandment keeper's hater in (2:9).

BY A HUMBLE SPHERE OF LIFE

Keeping his word equates to intimacy and maturing (internalizing) justness (v.5).

Keeping refers to guarding by not changing the word or changing one's mind about it.

What greater love toward God than to emulate how Jesus walked?

The law of love makes keeping and walking in humility possible.

THE MANNA TEST discerns complaint from contempt