

Discussion & Application:

1. Has your **assurance** of salvation increased or decreased since we started studying 1 John? Why?
2. **Define love** in your own words. Compare your definition with others in your group. What is the difference between loving someone and liking them? Can you love all believers without necessarily liking them?
3. What is the “**conscience**”? How does it work? Why did God give it to us? Is it always right? What are the things that might dull our conscience? What might make our conscience hyper-sensitive and judgmental? What can we do to help our conscience be more biblical?
4. What does a **guilty conscience** do to your sense of assurance? How does a lifestyle characterized by loving the brethren help when your conscience is condemning you? How does it help you know that you are of the truth?
5. What does it mean to “**assure our heart before Him**” when our conscience is condemning us (v. 19)? How does God’s omniscience help? What are the things He knows that give us assurance when we are overwhelmed by guilt feelings? What specific things can we meditate upon to help us when we have excessive guilt feelings?
6. What does a guilty heart do to your **prayer life**? How does your prayer life change when you are confident everything is right with God? What does Heb. 4:12-16 say about coming before God’s throne with confidence? What makes that possible?
7. Some people think **verse 22** obligates God to give us everything we ask for in prayer. Why would God choose NOT to give us everything we ask for? What are the prerequisites John gives for answered prayer? How does living that way impact the kinds of things we ask for in prayer?
8. What comes to your mind when you think of living in such a way that God is **pleased**? (See also John 4:34; 8:28-29; 2 Cor. 5:9-10; Heb. 13:20-21) Are there any areas of your life right now where God is not pleased? Choose to repent, confess, and enjoy God’s gracious forgiveness and assurance.
9. **Do you have assurance of salvation?** Is it obvious that you are a child of God by the way you love His children? What practical things have you done recently to demonstrate that you prioritize sacrificially giving to other believers? How might you love fellow Christians before you go home today? Who specifically might you voluntarily, sacrificially, practically, and joyfully love this week?
10. **Memorize 1 John 3:19-22.** Spend time meditating upon God’s complete understanding of you and what Jesus has done for you. Persuade your heart that because you are a child of God, God has forgiven you, loves you, and has declared you not guilty. Thank Him for so great a salvation, come confidently before Him in prayer, and demonstrate your gratitude by living to please Him in all things.

[Answers to blank: *Confident; Persuading; Praying; Pleasing*]