

# sermon notes

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Pastor Tony Caffey, Verse By Verse Fellowship

Nov 1, 2023 | "Assurance for an Unsure Heart" | 1 John 3:19-24

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## *When your heart condemns you...*

- 1) Consider the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
(3:19-20)
- 2) Consider the \_\_\_\_\_ of 1 John  
(3:21-23)
  - a. The \_\_\_\_\_ Test
  - b. The \_\_\_\_\_ Test
  - c. The \_\_\_\_\_ Test
- 3) Consider the \_\_\_\_\_  
(3:24)

## Questions for Further Application of God's Word:

1. Read 1 John 3:19-24. How does a person reassure his/her heart before God (3:19)? Why does John say that God is greater than our hearts? Are there times when our hearts (and their fears, doubts, uncertainties, etc.) seem bigger than God?
2. How does a person's heart condemn them? Have you ever had an experience where your own heart condemned you about something? Was it true conviction or false guilt? How did you respond?
3. Are doubts inevitable for a Christian? What about despair? How about lack of assurance of salvation for a Christian? Give some practical ways that you battle these things in your life? What does 1 John say about this issue? What other Bible passages address assurance of salvation?
4. What is the Obedience Test from 1 John? What is the Doctrinal Test? What is the Brotherly Love Test? Did you pass these tests? What is the Holy Spirit test from 1 John 3:24? What evidence do you have in your life that the Holy Spirit abides in you?
5. Read John 15:1-17 and note the parallels with 1 John, especially 1 John 3:19-24. How is God abiding in you right now? In what ways are you abiding in him?

**Advanced Question:** How would you respond to a person who says, "1 John 3:22 says we can have anything we ask of God; therefore I'm praying for a new Mercedes?" How do we properly interpret this passage along with other similar parallel passages (e.g. Ps 37:4; Matt 7:7-8; John 14:13; 15:7; 16:23-24; 1 Jn 5:14; James 4:2-3, etc.)?