

Assured by this Spiritual Tattoo

1 John 2:3-11 & 15-17

The Bible says there are legitimate ways to help others be _____ of our relationship to God. John wrote about this in 1 John 2.

John turned his attention to the question of how we might be assured of others' salvation, and they of ours. This issue became a crucial one as Christians began to experience more widespread and intense _____. This was prompting some within the church to _____ their faith and _____ to Judaism.

John wanted to help believers _____ genuine followers of Christ. First, he says that a genuine believer is marked by keeping God's _____/obeying His word. But who keeps all the commands? So, John narrows it down saying, "Whoever claims to live in him must live as _____ did." Again, who accomplishes living just like Jesus did?

Finally, John narrows it down to one command: "Anyone who _____ their brother and sister lives in the light." The distinctive mark of the genuine believer, permanently _____ by the Spirit on the soul of the Christian, is a deep, sacrificial love for brothers and sisters in Christ. This love inspires Christians to _____ themselves and _____ one another. It causes disciples to look with _____ and favor on those who fail and sin, and _____ them gently. It certainly causes true believers not to _____ the church or the faith when somehow hurt or threatened. A deep, self-humbling, serving, forgiving, and restoring love is the _____ _____ genuine followers of Christ bear, assuring others of their genuineness.

The church father Jerome said that when John grew old and frail, he only repeated the phrase, "Little children, love one another." When asked, "why do you always say this?" John replied, "Because it is the Lord's commandment, and if it alone is kept, it is _____."

We sing Jesus' own litmus test: "And they'll know we are Christian by our love..." Do they know _____? Do they know _____?