

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

1 JOHN SERIES

These questions are for the **May 21, 2017** sermon, "Reassurance." Please read the sermon passage (1 John 3:19-24) together out loud.

NOTE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN . . .

- 1) **Reassurance and a believer's condemning heart.** (19-20)
 - a) The heart may condemn, but listen instead to God, who is greater than the heart.
 - b) We will sit at the "end of the bench," and stew on how we have let the team down.
 - c) But in Christ, God provides reassurance
 - i) Assurance of salvation is objective, based upon our faith in Jesus Christ.
 - (1) Are you currently trusting Christ alone?
 - (2) Have you repented of sin?
 - ii) Reassurance is subjective, causing our hearts to be encouraged to serve.
 - (1) Do you feel God's closeness to you?
 - (2) Do you know his heart is for you?
- 2) **Reassurance and a believer's confident heart.** (21-24)
 - a) Believe Christ in such a way that you have confidence in the presence of God himself.
 - b) Peter's heart:
 - i) When doubting: timid before a servant girl and a small crowd in the dark.
 - ii) When confident: bold before large and powerful crowds at Pentecost.
 - c) God wants believers to have complete certainty about their faith in Jesus Christ.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: In what way does your heart condemn you? Do you ever feel like you have "let the team down"?
2. Based on #1, above: If you have failed in the past, this passage teaches you that God wants you to KNOW that you have true faith in Jesus, and FEEL him encouraging you to serve again. Reassurance is that "feeling" of God wanting you to trust him.
 - Have you trusted Jesus Christ alone for salvation?
 - If so, do you sense God's encouragement to keep going? keep serving?
3. Based on #2, above: God says that you can know that you know him. He says that he does not condemn those who are in Christ (Romans 8:1). When we believe this, we will be encouraged. Discuss this concept of believing that we can know that we know God.
4. Based on #2, above: A condemning heart produces weakness, but a confident heart brings strength (consider the example of Peter). Believing what God says produces confidence, and confidence produces boldness. Would you say your life is exhibiting boldness? Why, or why not? How might we get you to the point where you have confidence before God himself?