

Evidences Needed to Prove Faithful Discipleship

Part – 3: Loving God and the Brethren

1 John 4:20 – 5:1

Test 1: Is Your Love for God Real?

- ▶ Genuine love for God is proven by your love for the brethren – 1 Jn. 4:20-21; 3:17-18; Jn. 13:34-35
- ▶ If you love God who has begotten you, then you must love those whom God has begotten – 1 Jn. 5:1

Are you a faithful disciple?

1 John 5:2-3

Test 2: Is Your Love For Brethren Real?

- ▶ You determine whether you love your brethren by your love for God. **Circular reasoning?** – 5:2a
- ▶ John's answer: The addition of the words “and keep His commandments” show how biblical love is expressed – 5:2b; Jn. 14:15; 1 Jn. 3:16
- ▶ We cannot love God or the brethren without obeying God's commandments with the proper attitude – 5:3; Mt. 15:8-9; 1 Jn. 2:3-4

Are you a faithful disciple?

Test 3: Practical Application of Biblical Love

- ▶ The connection between biblical love and keeping God's commands is generally ignored by the religious world...and sometime by us.
- ▶ We can only know we love God and brethren when His commands govern these relationships – Titus 2:11-14; Rom. 1:26-27; Rev. 21:8; 2 Cor. 5:11, 5; Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:11; Col. 3:18-22

Are you a true disciple?

Conclusion

- ▶ I encourage you to turn God's commands into a matter of joy – 1 Jn. 5:4
- ▶ True love demands much in the area of changes to your life and challenges in dealing with others' lives.
- ▶ Remember why you came to Christ – Rom. 6:20-22
- ▶ Do you truly love God and the brethren?