

Loyal Heart MINISTRIES

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Evidence Please – I John 1:1-3

A Devotion for Families by *Dr. Jim Smyrl*

Describe the activities that take place in a courtroom. Describe the scene of a trial, leading all the way up to the point where the Foreman of the Jury pronounces the defendant guilty or innocent.

Looking at Your Heart

What would be the verdict of God, if your claim of being a Christian were examined in a courtroom? What evidence would be presented that gives convincing proof that you are a follower of Christ?

Seeking His Face

Pray for God to examine your heart as you open your Bible.

Examining the Text

Note: I John was written to correct people dealing with a false sense of assurance over their salvation. The first issue John addresses is the fellowship of believers.

What is fellowship?

Note: Fellowship means to have something in common.

Which of the five senses does John use to describe how he knows Jesus in verse 1?

John was writing in a culture where some people said that Jesus was just a spirit, not the God-man. Note that if Jesus had only been a spirit and not fully man, he could not have taken our place in death on the cross.

What does John do, in verse 2, with his knowledge of Jesus?

Telling others about Jesus is characteristic of people who trusted Him as Savior in the New Testament. If our claim of being a Christian were put on trial, one of the most important pieces of evidence would be how often we tell others about Christ.

Why, in verse 3, does John say that he is telling so many people about Jesus? Remember, to “have fellowship” means to have something in common.

What, in verse 3, does John say he and others have in common? Lead your family to see that the common connection of all believers is Jesus Christ.

Applying the Text

Is it possible to truly have Christian fellowship with someone who is not a Christian? No.

If you were on trial for your claim of Christianity, someone would ask, “What do you have in common with Christians?” You may say, “I go to church, I know the hymns, I read the Bible, I pray, etc.” But it is only those who say, “I have the common connection of being in Christ by grace through faith,” that will stand confident before God as the validity to their claim of Christianity is examined.