





1. As a teenager a poster on my bedroom wall read, "If you were accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to prove it?" What are some of the criteria the world may use to identify a Christian? And what evidence do you think is proof?

Read verses 1-2

- 2. What encouragement is there for believers when we sin?
- 3. Why does John add 'but also for the sins of the whole world'? How should this shape how believers live?

Read verses 3-11

4. What is the relationship between knowing God and obeying God? How does this challenge those who are complacent about their sin?

5. What is the sign that God's love has been 'made complete' (ie. reached its goal) in the life of a believer?

6. What is 'the command'? (See 3:23 & 4:21) How is this an 'old' command? (Deuteronomy 6:4-5 & Leviticus 19:18) And how is this 'new'? (John 13:34)

7. Is loving (not hating) fellow believers a qualification for or evidence of salvation?

Read verses 12-14

8. Why has John written - what encouragement does he have for his readers?

9. How have believers overcome or secured victory over the evil one (ie. Satan)?



(Answer all these questions personally, but as a group choose one or two to focus on.)

10. How should believers respond to the reality of sin?

- 11. How does sin affect assurance? How does sin affect our relationship with fellow believers?
- 12. "I'm a good person! I'm confident I'll go to heaven!" In the light of this passage how would you respond to such a comment?
- 13. "I've done some really bad things. I'm not even sure that I'm really a Christian!" In the light of this passage how would you respond to such a comment?
- 14. Why is assurance important? How is assurance possible?

