

Finding *Renewal* in the Love of God

Unit 2: Discovering Renewal in the Testimony of the Word

Study Questions with Answers

1 John speaks of a variety of ways in which one might use his/her words to testify. Read the passage in the New International Version and respond to the following questions.

1. Make a list of the number of ways in which John says he and those who testify with him have experienced the Word of Life (1.1-4).

- Heard
- Have looked at
- Seen with our eyes
- Have touched

2. What is the difference in this testimony and the type testimony of which he speaks in 1.8, 10? **There is no experience that proves the words these people are saying; they say one thing and do another. (claiming is different from “confessing”—this word in Greek means that the visible action matches the statement—actions talk, so to speak)**

3. How many different uses for words does the first chapter of the book of 1 John suggest that might one use? (See 1.2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10)

- Testify
- Proclaim
- Writing
- Hearing and declaring
- Claiming
- Lying
- Confessing
- Truth telling

Follow up question: Can you think of instances in which God’s Word has been proclaimed in these ways?

4. What “claims” (spoken words) are being made in 1.6-10?

- Claiming that we are totally without sin
- they are claiming to have fellowship with Jesus while the whole of their walk is one of darkness

5. In what way might the life of Jesus be considered the Word of life? Whose word? (see John 14. 9-11—the gospel). **Jesus was the plainest, most accurate representation of the Father that has ever walked this earth. Though Adam was created in the image of God, Adam did not represent God in God’s purity. Jesus did. Both in John 14 and in 1 John, the testimony is that Jesus and the Father are one. In 1.5-7, John testifies about God, the Father: he is “light—no darkness at all.” In 2.8, speaking of Jesus, he writes that the truth of the new command (to love one another—4.21) is seen in Him (Jesus) and the “true light” is already shining. In 5.20, he writes, “We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know Him who is true (God). **And we are in Him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.** In this, Jesus *is* not only with God (1.2), his every action declares God; He is the Word of God who created all things (Gospel of John 1.1-4).**

6. Read (the gospel of) John 1.1-3 and 1.10 and note the first three words of these verses in Genesis: 1.3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, and 26. What can we discern about Jesus from these verses? **Jesus is the Word of God; all things came into being by God's Word; In Genesis, God **spoke** creation into existence, "And God said..." and there **was**. As the Word, Jesus is the living, walk around witness, spokesman and the object lesson that declares God's presence. But He is more than a messenger. He is "the true God and eternal life."** (1 John 5.20)
7. Read 1 John 1.1-3. What proofs might you find in these verses that indicate that when John refers to "eternal life," he is not referring simply to a future life with God? **The walk-around life, the marriage of Jesus' physical life to the consistent testimony of God, was with the father (it existed before it appeared here), it appeared to us (it existed on earth in the flesh), and it is available to man: "We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, *so that you also may have fellowship with us.*"** (1.3)
8. Read 3.16-20. John recognizes that one of the tests in the Christian walk is the assurance that we possess eternal life (5.13). What testimony will sustain us when our hearts condemn us? **If we love not only with words, but with actions and in truth (*homologeo*).**
9. What is the appropriate lifestyle for anyone who claims life in Christ?
A life of obedience consistent with the walk of Jesus: Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did. (2.6)
10. What claims and actions, taken together, constitute the words of a liar? (see 1.6, 1.8, 2.4, 2.22, 4.20). **Denying Jesus**
 - **Saying we are His, but not living like we are His**
 - **Saying we do not sin**
 - **Failing to obey**
 - **Failing to love our brother**
11. By what action or testimony might we testify that God is a liar? (see 1.10 and 5.10).
Denying Jesus
 - **Saying we have never sinned (If we say this, we are saying that God's sacrifice of Jesus was a farce)**
 - **5:10—not believing in the Son of God, **the** eternal life**
12. Reflecting back across your previous observations, in what ways might a person testify concerning his/her faith in Jesus?
 - **Verbally**
 - **By loving his brothers in action and truth—not just saying so, but willing to lay down one's life for his brother, by praying for him if he is caught in sin,**
 - **By obeying God**
 - **By representing Jesus by living like He lived**

13. Given what you have discerned here, list the ways you can see that Jesus was the perfect Word of God.

- He lived among men as God Himself (God with us) would—in light, no darkness at all
- He brought the light among us, so that we could see life
- By giving Himself as a sacrifice, he re-created life, thus re-presented the creational power of God.

14. What does it mean to you (in your life, in your walk) that Jesus **is** the Word of God? **It means that I can know God; that I can believe that I have life.**