

Competing Testimonies and Competing Gospels

We live in a day when there are all sorts of opinions (testimonies) about Jesus. Some would rightly claim that Jesus is the Son of God and the one true way to God. Others deny these truths. They might affirm that Jesus was a good man and a moral teacher, but certainly not God. The very same dynamic was happening in John's day. Then and now there are competing testimonies and competing gospels. And so how do we sort it all out? How would anyone know whom to believe? John's argument is that we should believe the testimony of dependable witnesses.

Opening Discussion: What are some false ideas about Jesus that are promoted today?

Read 1 John 5:6-12

1. What sticks out to you in this passage?
2. John says the Spirit gives testimony regarding the truth of Jesus (v. 7). How did the Spirit testify concerning Jesus' coming with water (i.e. baptism) and blood (i.e. crucifixion)? Look up Luke 3:21-22 and Romans 1:4.
3. How might Deuteronomy 17:6 and 19:15 relate to what John says in verses 7-8?
4. What does John say about the testimony of God (v. 9)?

Steve said:

Through the Spirit, the water, and the blood, God is testifying that Jesus is the Son of God who came in the flesh and died as the atoning sacrifice for our sins . . . "Are you putting yourself in a position to receive 'the testimony of God'? Or are you only positioned to receive the testimony of other people?" Of course the two aren't necessarily in conflict, but you only know that if the primary testimony you're receiving is that of God. And living almost 2,000 years after Jesus' time on earth, the primary place we receive the testimony of God is through the Scriptures.

5. Are you putting yourself in a position to receive the testimony of God? Explain.

6. Why is it important that we continue to put ourselves in a position to receive God's testimony in an ongoing way?

7. In verse 10, John says that the one who believes in Jesus has a testimony within himself? In what way have you experienced this internal testimony?

8. What does John teach about eternal life (vv. 11-12)?

9. What is your main application from this passage?