

Our Common Convictions as Believers

As was true in the day John wrote 1 John, there are those who promote other “truths,” therefore having convictions and holding them in common with other believers is really important. In our passage today, John lays out some of these common convictions. If we will hold these things in common as a church, they can shape the culture of Faith in some life-giving ways. They will have implications for the way we pursue our mission of loving God, one another, and our neighbors.

Read 1 John 5:18-20

1. What sticks out to you in this passage?
2. How many times does John use the phrase, “we know”? What does he say we know?
3. John makes the point, that he has made before, that those who know God do not keep on sinning (v. 18). Though we have a part to play in this, what does he say God does?

Steve said:

If you are born of God, are you convinced that God expects you to not keep on sinning. . . and that he expects you to pursue a life of obedience? Are you convinced that God has provided everything you need to put away sin and to pursue a life of obedience?

4. How do you respond to this? Are you convince that God expects you to stop sinning? Explain.
5. How might it shape the culture of our church if we hold the common conviction that we shouldn't keep on sinning?

6. Another conviction that John says we share is that we are secure (v. 19). What implications are there for us in knowing that though the whole world lies in the power of the evil one, we are “of God” (ESV says “from God); we are secure in God’s kingdom because of His Son (v. 19)?

7. John says that we should hold the common conviction that we KNOW that we know the true God because Jesus has given us understanding (v. 20). How might this conviction affect the culture of our church?

8. What is your main application from this study?