

Authentic Christianity

1 John 1-2:2

We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. 1 John 5:20

Background facts to understand about 1 John

1. Written by John when he was an _____ man
2. Second and third generation Christians during a relatively peaceful period of time

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29

3. Against the false teaching of G_____

Gnosticism "All matter is evil only the spirit is good."

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. John 4:23

Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord. Isaiah 1:18

1. Authentic Christianity is based upon the _____ of Jesus Christ.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 1 John 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image Genesis 1:26

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. John 1:1-2

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

John 1:3

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" John 8:58

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 1 John 1:1

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” Luke 24:36

They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Luke 24:37-38

Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.” Luke 24:39

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?”

Luke 24:40-41

They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.

Luke 24:42-43

The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 1 John 1:2

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. 1 John 1:3-4

2. Authentic Christianity is a reflection of the _____ of God.

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5

[Jesus] *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12*

What does light do that characterizes God?

1. Light e_____

He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men’s hearts. 1 Corinthians 4:5

I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Isaiah 6:1

Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:

Isaiah 6:2-3

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. Isaiah 6:4

“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.” **Isaiah 6:5**

What does light do that characterizes God?

1. Light exposes, God’s light exposes our sin
2. Light i _____

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. **Psalm 119:105**

Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell. **Psalm 43:3**

2. Light illuminates, God’s light safely guides
3. Light attracts

God is light. Those who belong to God _____ in the light.

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. **John 3:19**

Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. **John 3:20**

3. Christianity produces a _____ in the life of the believer.

Five Signs of Authentic Faith in a Believer

1. Authentic faith produces a consistent pattern of b _____.

If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. **1 John 1:6**

2. Continuous f _____ with other believers.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. **1 John 1:7**

Six Signs someone is walking away from the light

1. A deliberate willful disobedience
2. Unresolved guilt
3. Out of fellowship with God’s people
4. A preference for the association of the w _____, rather than God’s people
5. Begin to despise God’s truth
6. They have an addiction to the d _____

Five Signs of Authentic Faith in a Believer

3. A transparent awareness of our s_____ condition.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 1 John 1:8

The closer you get to God, the more you become aware of your own flaws.

I am the least of the apostles

1 Corinthians 15:9

I'm less than the least of all God's people

Ephesians 3:8

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the w_____.

1 Timothy 1:15

If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. 1 John 1:10

Five Signs of Authentic Faith in a Believer

4. Genuine faith produces a humble confession of sins.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

An authentic Christian is b_____ over their sin.

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. 2 Corinthians 7:10

***Every sin we have ever committed,
and every sin we will ever commit in the future,
has already been paid for in full.***

5. Genuine faith produces a daily d_____ upon Jesus Christ.

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

1 John 2:1

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:2

Key: Older, Gnosticism, reality, integrity, exposes, illuminates, walk, authenticity, behavior, fellowship, world, darkness, sinful, worst, brokenhearted, dependence