

Study Guide: 1 John Lesson 69

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

This study guide explores the teachings of 1 John regarding the indicators of a true relationship with God. It focuses on the concept of "holy affections"—proofs that a person has been transformed by God's grace. By examining the conscience, the heart, and the nature of obedience, this lesson provides a framework for believers to understand their standing before the Lord.

Quiz: Reviewing the Lesson

Instructions: Answer the following questions in two to three complete sentences based on the provided text.

1. What is the memory verse for the month of July, and what does it instruct believers to do?
2. How does the lesson define "holy affections," and which historical figure is credited with making this phrase popular?
3. In the context of Hebrew thought, what is the difference between the "heart" and the "bowels"?
4. What happens to a person's conscience when they become a Christian, and how does it react to sin?
5. According to the lesson, how does Satan attempt to neutralize a person's self-knowledge or conscience?
6. When a believer feels "beat up" by their conscience, why is it unhelpful to rely on past actions like being baptized or attending church?
7. What is the "higher court" that exists above a believer's own self-condemnation?
8. Why can God see a believer as justified even though He knows every "black deed" they have committed?
9. What does it mean to have "boldness in prayer," and what is the specific term used to describe this confidence?
10. Why is it considered impossible for a person to be a true Christian while remaining intentionally disobedient to God's commands?

Answer Key

1. The July memory verse is Proverbs 3:5. It states, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding."
2. Holy affections are things that serve as proof that a person is "of God" and possesses a new heart. This phrase was made popular by Jonathan Edwards in the 1700s.
3. To the Hebrews, the heart represented the mind and the place of thinking. In contrast, they believed the bowels were the seat of a person's emotions.
4. When a person is saved, their conscience is informed by God's standard and becomes very active. It becomes blood-washed and sensitive, accusing the believer whenever they function outside of the will of God.
5. Satan tries to neutralize a person's conscience by misinforming them or silencing their self-knowledge. He also attempts to "sear" the conscience so that, if ignored enough, it eventually loses its impact on the individual.
6. Relying on church attendance or past baptism does not satisfy a condemning conscience because these things do not address the current behavior. If a person acts like a Christian but does not live like one, their conscience will correctly label them a hypocrite.
7. The higher court is God Himself, who is greater than our hearts and knows all things. While our hearts may focus on failure, God's knowledge and standard are higher, yet He provides grace through His Son.
8. God sees the believer through the lens of His Son, Jesus Christ, who gave His life for them. Because the believer is justified by the blood of Christ, God sees the True Revelation of their heart and the holy affections within them.
9. Boldness in prayer means having the confidence to step into God's presence and say exactly what is on one's mind. It is a face-to-face relationship where a child of God can speak freely to their Father without fear or shame.
10. True believers are known by their obedience, which is a primary demonstration of love for God. To claim to be a Christian while living exactly as one did before being saved contradicts the nature of the transformation God works in a person's life.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Use the themes from the lesson to provide detailed responses to the following prompts.

1. Explain the five "holy affections" discussed in the lesson. How do these serve as indicators of a person's salvation?
2. Discuss the struggle of the "sensitive conscience." How can a believer balance the guilt of sin with the assurance of God's grace?
3. Describe the relationship between God's high standard of holiness and His refusal to condemn those who are in Jesus Christ.
4. The lesson mentions that a Christian cannot sustain a "mature Christianity" by eating "baby food." Explain what this means in terms of spiritual growth and the study of the Word.
5. Analyze the teacher's definition of an "antichrist" based on the text. How does this definition apply to those who deny the nature of Jesus Christ?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Abide:** To remain, continue, or stay in a close, stable relationship with Jesus Christ and His Word.
- **Aba (Abba):** A personal, intimate term for "Father," similar to "Papa," used by believers to address God.
- **Antichrist:** Anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ or denies that He has come in the flesh.
- **Bowels:** In ancient Hebrew thought, the part of the body associated with the seat of emotions.
- **Conscience:** A person's inner sense of right and wrong; in the lesson, it is referred to as "self-knowledge" informed by God's standard.
- **Grace:** The unmerited favor and mercy shown by God to people, particularly through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
- **Holy Affections:** Religious inclinations or indicators—such as love for others and gratitude toward God—that prove a person is a true believer.
- **Justified:** Being declared righteous or "not guilty" before God through faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Overcomer:** A term used in the New Testament to describe believers who successfully resist the world through their faith in the Son of God.

- **Self-Denier:** A person who gives up their own agenda, will, and ambitions to follow what pleases the Lord.

Greek and Foreign Terms

The following terms used in the lesson are derived from Greek or Aramaic origins:

Term	Phonetic Pronunciation	Brief Definition
Abba ¹	(ah-BAH)	An Aramaic word for "Father" expressing deep intimacy.
Baria ²	(bah-REE-ah)	A term used in the lesson to describe "boldness" or confidence in speech before God.

¹ **Abba:** The lesson uses this to describe the relationship of a saint to God as their "papa." ² **Baria:** Referenced in the context of 1 John 3:21 to describe the freedom and confidence (*parrhesia*) a believer has in prayer.