

THE TESTIMONY ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

I. TO TESTIFY, TO GIVE TESTIMONY

To witness, to verify, to confirm, to give evidence to, to speak forth. A witness is to tell the truth about a person or situation. The true Christian is one who believes the testimony, the witness, the evidence given about Christ, and is truly saved, is a true Christian. 1 John 1:1-4

II. THE BATTLE FOR THE TRUTH - 1 John 4:1-3

A. Since the start of the church age, the devil has been doing all he can to get people to believe the lies that his false prophets and false teachers have been speaking about Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:12-15

B. The majority of people don't know the truth about Jesus, that He is the Son of God; and they need to know the truth before they can really believe the truth. What you know and believe about Jesus Christ affects your entire life, and your eternal destiny. John 17:3

C. Paul's goal was always to make sure people understood that Jesus was both God and man, that He was the Christ, the Anointed One spoken of in the Old Testament, the One sent by God to save people from their sins. Acts 17:2-3, 18:5, 28:23, 28:30

III. THREE WITNESSES TESTIFYING ABOUT JESUS CHRIST - 1 John 5:6-8

A. The water testifies – this is referring to the baptism of Jesus.

1. The Spirit came as a Dove to give evidence of the Father's testimony. The Father said, "*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*" Matt. 3:13-16
2. Right at the start of Jesus' ministry, the Father and the Spirit were testifying to the truth, that this Jesus was indeed the Son of God.

B. The blood testifies - this is referring to the death of Christ. Romans 3:25, Hebrews 9:14

1. There was darkness that came upon the land in the middle of the day.
2. The temple curtain, impossible for man to tear, was torn in two by God.
3. There was a great earthquake, and many saints were rising from the dead.
4. The biggest miracle was that God raised His Son from the dead. Acts 2:31-33

C. "*Not with the water only, but with the water and the blood.*" 1 John 5:6

Jesus died, not just as a man, but also as God. The fact of Jesus' incarnation, that He is fully God and fully man, is a central truth of Christianity. This teaching that Jesus was just a man when He died on the cross is wrong, and denies the sufficiency, the power, and the value of Christ's death as being that which paid for our sins. 2 Cor. 5:21

D. The Spirit testifies – this is referring to the Spirit’s work in the life of Jesus Christ.

1. The Spirit was very involved in Jesus’ life, leading and enabling Him to fulfill His work and ministry on earth. Luke 1:35, Matthew 3:16, Mark 1:12, Acts 10:38
2. The Spirit’s work in Jesus is giving testimony that He is the Christ, the Son of God. John 15:27

IV. GOD’S TESTIMONY IS MUCH GREATER THAN MAN’S TESTIMONY - 1 John 5:9-10

- A. The main point is that God has testified concerning His Son, and in particular, has given us three key and reliable witnesses, the Spirit, the water and the blood.
- B. The word of God also testifies. The main objective of the four gospels is to testify to the truth about Jesus Christ. The epistles also give testimony.

MANY OTHER SIGNS JESUS ALSO PERFORMED IN THE PRESENCE
OF THE DISCIPLES, WHICH ARE NOT WRITTEN IN THIS BOOK;
BUT THESE HAVE BEEN WRITTEN SO THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE
THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD;
AND THAT BELIEVING YOU MAY HAVE LIFE IN HIS NAME.

John 20:30-31

SOME QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

1. What is the main thing you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. What is the purpose of God giving testimony about the life of Jesus Christ?
3. What are some of the lies the devil speaks forth about Jesus Christ? What is his goal?
4. What should your first goal be when you are talking to people about Jesus Christ?
5. Briefly explain the purposes of the three witnesses that are testifying about Jesus?
6. Why did Jesus need to be God when He died on the cross for our sins?
7. How would you personally, from your own experience, testify to the truth of Jesus Christ?