

FOUR FACTS ABOUT A BELIEVER

Lesson Aim: To abide in Christ so that we live like children of God and not like the children of Satan

Suggestion: Have the students read the Scriptures and answer the questions in the student lesson; then ask the following questions for class discussion.

What does God call a believer that receives Jesus as his Savior? 3:1; Jn 1:12-13; 3:5-7

The first fact of a believer: he is called a child of God, because he has been born of God by the Spirit.

How will the world treat you when you become a child of God? 3:1, 13

The world (unsaved people) will not know you (understand you) because it does not know (understand) God. The world may even hate you just as it hated Jesus Christ.

What hope do believers have that will keep them pure? 3:2-3; 1 Thess 4:13-18

Jesus Christ will come to take all church-age believers to Heaven in the Rapture (1 Thess 4:13-18). At that time they shall see Jesus in His glorified body and they will be like Him. The confident hope that this event will happen will have a purifying effect on their lives. They will want to please Him and be pure like their Master. Since they do not know when He will come to take them to Heaven, they will seek to be pure every day.

How can it be said that a believer does not sin? 3:4-10

The second fact of a believer: he has the nature of God; His seed is in him (3:9). Sin is a transgression of the Law and Jesus came to take away all the sins of all believers by His death on the cross (4-5). When a believer receives Jesus as his Savior, He takes away all of his sins (past, present and future), so no sin is on his record. Whoever has sin on his record does not know Jesus (6). A believer is a new person in Christ; old things have passed away and all things have become new (2 Cor 5:17). He has been given the divine nature (2 Pet 1:4), which cannot sin. This divine nature is implanted in him as a seed when he receives Jesus as his Savior (1 Jn 3:9). Now the believer has two natures: the old man that we inherited from Adam that desires to sin and the new man that he received from Jesus Christ that cannot sin. Now the believer has the choice as to which nature will control his life (Eph 4:22-24). Paul wrestled with the problem of sin in his life before he found victory over sin in Jesus Christ (Rom 7:15-25). Paul said that he was crucified with Christ, nevertheless, he lived, yet not he, but Christ lived in him (Gal 2:20). Therefore, when a believer is crucified with Christ, he cannot sin, because he lives by His faith in Jesus Christ, who loves him and sent the Holy Spirit to live in him.

How is a believer to treat fellow believers that trust in Jesus Christ 3:11-18?

The third fact of a believer: he loves other believers. He loves his brothers in Christ and does not hate them like Cain, who killed his brother, Abel. Cain did it because his works were evil and his brother's works were righteous. When he loves fellow believers, it proves that he has been saved from his sins. If he hates a fellow believer, he is like a murderer, and we know that a murderer does not have eternal life. Jesus Christ showed His love by laying down His life to save him, so he ought to follow Jesus' example. If he sees a fellow believer in need, he must do whatever he can to help him.

What are some things that a believer can be sure of having? 3:19-24

The fourth fact about a believer: he has assurance before God (3:11, 16). He is sure that he has the truth so he can be confident that he is right with God (3:19-21). He also knows his prayers will be answered, because he believes on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and loves other believers (3:22-23). Finally, he knows that he dwells in God and God dwells in him because he loves the believers. God dwells in believers because the Holy Spirit has been sent to dwell in him (3:24; 1 Cor 6:19-20).