



Questions Answered (Part 2)

Lesson 12

1 John 5:7

1. What must we believe to overcome the world?

1 John 5:5 _____

In this portion of John's letter he emphasized the fact that Jesus is the Son of God. This emphasis is prominent in much of John's writings. In fact, John explained that the reason he wrote the entire gospel of John was to get us to believe that Jesus is the Son of God (John 20:31).

2. According to John, how can we make God out to be a liar?

1 John 5:10 _____

Sandwiched between these two emphatic statements regarding the importance of understanding and believing that Jesus is the actual Son of God, we find 1 John 5:7. Some Trinitarians use this verse to support the theory that Jesus is not actually God's Son, but rather "God the Son," the second person of a triune god. This approach does injustice to the context and the main point of 1 John chapter 5. There must be some other explanation for these texts.

3. By what did Jesus come to this earth?

1 John 5:6 _____

4. There are three that do what?

1 John 5:7 _____

The question must be asked, “three what?” Trinitarians and Tritheists assume that “there are three [persons or beings, or even three Gods],” but that is not what the verse says. It just says “there are three.”

- 5 Who or what bears witness in earth?

1 John 5:8 _____

Again, we must ask “three what?” Are there three persons? three beings? three Gods? From the context we find that it can be none of these. Verse 6 demonstrates that the water and the blood cannot possibly be persons, yet they bear record in the earth. Keep in mind that John’s purpose for mentioning that there are three that bear record is to help substantiate his point that Jesus is the Son of God. The record that they bear proves Jesus to be God’s Son.

How the Spirit the Water and the Blood Testify

6. When Jesus was baptized with water what did His Father say?

Matthew 3:17 _____

7. John the Baptist bore record when he saw what?

John 1:32 _____

8. What sign did God tell John the Baptist to look for?

John 1:33 _____

9. What did John testify after seeing this sign?

John 1:34 _____

The Spirit descending at Christ’s water baptism testified that Jesus is the Son of God.

10. How does the Spirit testify in us today?

Romans 8:16 _____

11. What came out of Jesus when a soldier pierced His side?

John 19:34 _____

12. What did a centurion testify after seeing Christ die?

Mark 15:39 _____

Christ's death testified to the fact that He is God's Son. Even a Roman soldier could recognize this truth. The Spirit the water and the blood all testify to the reality of Christ being the Son of God. If the three that bear witness on the earth are not separate individual persons, then there is no guarantee that the three that bear witness in heaven are separate persons.

Putting it all Together

13. How does John describe the unity of the three in heaven?

1 John 5:7 _____

14. How did Jesus describe His unity with His Father?

John 10:30 _____

15. How did Jesus clarify this unity?

John 17:21-23 _____

According to Jesus, He and His Father are one because His Father dwells in Him. He explained that you and I can be one in the same way. This oneness is not oneness of person, or being, but rather a oneness of mind, character, and purpose, accomplished by being partakers of the same Spirit. "But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit" (1 Corinthians 6:17).

16. How many times does the word "person" appear in this verse?

1 John 5:7 _____

17. How many times does the word "God" appear in this verse?

1 John 5:7 _____

Some people read words into this verse as if it said, "For there are three *persons* that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three *persons* are one *God*." If the verse had

been written in this way, then it would teach the idea of a trinity, but it does not say that. The only way we can get a trinity out of this verse is to add three words to the text.

How do the Father and Son bear record in heaven to the fact that Jesus is the Son of God? Both of them could personally testify to anyone in heaven that Jesus is the Son of God. The same Holy Spirit that bears witness to our spirits that we are the sons of God can testify in heaven that Jesus is the Son of God. And these three records are in perfect agreement.

First John 5:7 does not prove that there are three persons in one God. If we wish to find evidence from the Bible that God is composed of three persons we must look elsewhere.

As a side note to this, you may wish to read a Bible commentary on 1 John 5:7. Most commentaries declare that the words “in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth” were not found in any Greek manuscripts before the 16th century, and were added into the Latin Vulgate by mistake of a copyist who included a marginal note in the text. Yet, it did not appear in any Greek manuscript until much later. For this reason most of the newer Bible translations leave these words out, or include them in italics to indicate their questionable nature. One Bible commentary says, “Erasmus did not have it in his first edition, but rashly offered to insert it if a single Greek Manuscript had it and [Manuscript #] 34 was produced with the insertion, as if made to order... Some Latin scribe caught up Cyprian’s exegesis and wrote it on the margin of his text, and so it got into the Vulgate and finally into the Textus Receptus by the... [irresponsibility] of Erasmus” (*Robertson’s New Testament Word Pictures* commentary on 1 John 5:7).

Even if this text is considered to be valid, it does not prove a Trinity. For more answers to verses in the Bible that are sometimes used to support the idea of the Trinity doctrine, please contact us and request the study entitled, “Answers to Verses Trinitarians Often Use.”

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