

SERMON NOTES

Don't Miss the Real Thing: Keep Yourselves from Idols

1 John 5:1–21 | Matt Green | August 4, 2019

Right Belief, Righteous Living, Faithful Love (5:1–5)

- **Belief** – trusting in Jesus
- **Life** – pleasing God, keeping His commandments
- **Love** – care for our brothers and sisters
- *These go together like three legs on a stool*

Trustworthy Testimony (5:6–12)

- **External:** The water and the blood
 - Water probably refers to Jesus' baptism, the start of His public ministry where He was revealed as the Son of God
 - Blood refers to Jesus' death on the cross in our place
 - Belief in both is critical
- **Internal:** The testimony of the Holy Spirit
- God's testimony to Jesus is reliable

Living in Confidence (5:13–18)

- Confidence that we have eternal life
- Confidence as we pray in God's will
 - God's will: our sanctification (1 Thes. 4:3)
 - God's will: giving thanks in all circumstances (1 Thes. 5:18)
 - God's will: doing good to silence critics (1 Peter 2:15)
 - Sometimes we don't know His will; but above all, we want God to have His way
- Prayer for those in sin
 - Sin that leads to death
 - Sin that does not lead to death
 - We should pray for and seek to win back brothers and sisters when they sin

Don't Miss the Real Thing (5:19–21)

- Trust in the true God, follow His ways, love His children
- Keep yourselves from idols

*Does my life show I'm God's child?
Do I live in ways pleasing to Him and show love
for my brothers and sisters?*