



## Leader Guide

### We Love

*May 8, 2022*

## Main Passage: 1 John 3:23

### Theological Theme

God has given His people two commands that ought to direct all of their lives. The first command is the foundation of all: faith in Christ. The second necessarily follows: love one another.

### Introduction

- ❓ Who are children expected to obey? Has this expectation changed over the past generations? Think back to your childhood. Who were you expected to obey?
- ❓ Do any specific instances come to mind regarding obedience or disobedience in your childhood? What motivated you to obey specific people?

Christians have an authority that trumps all other authorities. The one true and living God is the ultimate authority for those who profess Christ. Furthermore, this God has provided a clear and unchanging revelation of His will for those who would follow Him. The Scriptures are vital for Christians because they express the will of their ultimate Authority. As we study today's passage, let's consider the authority of God over those who claim the name of Christ.

### 1. Authority to Command (1 John 3:23a)

The Christian's greatest authority is God and His commands made clear through His Word. The authority of God overrules all other authorities in the Christian's life. Christians must say with Peter and the apostles, "We must obey God rather than people" (Acts 5:29).








## 2. Belief in the Son (1 John 3:23b)

Time and again the Scriptures call those who fear God to faith. For example, Proverbs 3:5 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding.” Faith is a defining characteristic of the people of God. Yet, faith is not, in and of itself, of any value. Remember, all people place their trust in something. Adherents of all religions exercise faith in something. Faith only avails life if the object of that faith can truly give life. John told his readers to place their faith in Jesus Christ.

## 3. Love One Another (1 John 3:23c)

John also told his readers that they should love one another. Those who believe in Christ love others. Faith works. True faith isn’t simply a logical assent, it is a full abandonment. Those who look to Christ for salvation give themselves to Him and His will. Christians surrender themselves to the will of God and deeply desire to live in a way that pleases Him.

## Questions to Guide Your Group’s Discussion

-  What does this passage say?
-  What did this passage mean to its original audience?
-  What does this passage tell us about God?
-  What does this passage tell us about man?
-  What does this passage demand of me?
-  How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
-  How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

\*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC