

WHY CHRISTIANS LACK ASSURANCE — 1 JOHN 3:19

“And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him” (1Jn.3:19)

1 Because of Strong Preaching of God’s Holy Standard

HOLINESS

- If you’re in a church where the Law of God is not held up, it’s unlikely that you’re going to have a battle with a lack of assurance.
- It is under strong preaching, where a call for genuine repentance is at the heart of all gospel invitations that people struggle with assurance.
- “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.” (2Co.13:5)

2 Because of an Inability to Accept Forgiveness

CONSCIENCE

- There’s just too much sin in their minds that they can’t get rid of.
- The conscience speaks against forgiveness. It is the essence of conscience to accuse you.
- Your conscience functions better after you’ve been saved than it did before. It functions to awaken your heart to sin.
- Your conscience and the Law of God know nothing of forgiveness or mercy. Faith brings forgiveness.

3 Because They Fail to Understand the Rich Truth of the Gospel, and the Work of Christ

JUSTIFICATION

- Bad theology contributes to a lack of assurance. The reality of grace and forgiveness in Christ is not comprehended.
- Most people hold on to some kind of experience as the evidence of their salvation, rather than understanding the doctrine of justification.
- God is in the business of justifying the ungodly (Ro.4). Legalists think God justifies the godly.
- What does being practical mean? It isn’t jumping to how you behave, it’s dealing with how you think.



4 Because of the Remaining Power of Their Unredeemed Flesh

FLESH-AFFECTION

- They still feel the flesh strongly and wonder if they have been transformed.
- What they are experiencing is the battle of Romans 7. Paul says there is a principle in me that’s in my flesh that makes me do what I don’t want to do and not do what I want to do.
- There is another principle in me and it is love for the Law of God (Ro.7:12-16).
- How do you know if you are really changed? Do you love the Law of God and hate the sin that you see in yourself?

5 Because They Do Not See the Hand of God in Their Trials

TRIALS-FAITH

- There are people who in the midst of life's trials don't see the hand of God in those trials. Thus, they lose their assurance.
- They miss the very source of their strongest assurance, that is tested faith. Nobody is too weak to be useful to God, but many people are too strong.