

4. Verse 20 assumes that people are generally living godly lives yet their hearts condemn them. What are some of the reasons you have seen in yourself or others that might lead to this condition? ALSO, Read verse 19. John speaks of knowing that we belong to the truth and having rest in God's presence. Does self-condemnation affect our ability to experience that?

5. John says that we know that God is greater than our hearts. How do we actually apply that to defeat false self-condemnation?

6. We end with a statement. If Jesus hadn't raised from the dead, verse 24 would not be possible. In your prayer time set aside some time to thank God for this incredible gift that flows out of the resurrection.

JESUS CAME TO LIVE IN US

Romans 6:4; 1 John 3:13-24

The resurrection of Jesus Christ was necessary to establish the truth of his mission and put the stamp of all-conquering power on his gospel.

Edward McKendree Bounds

His resurrection changed the world – and it changes us!

In him we die to an old life and in resurrection we are raised to a new one.

We know we have passed from death to life (1 John 3:13-24)

We've crossed over – a new way of thinking.

We're not expatriates taking up temporary residence in a new place, we have crossed over like new citizens

Jesus living in us actually changes the way we look at those around us, and affects the way we think.

We *know* **what love is** (3:16-18)

Because Jesus **stood in our place**.

Because Jesus **set the example**.

Because we **have something to follow**.

We will *know* **we belong to the truth** (3:19-23)

As we live in resurrection life, we trust in **God's provision** to keep his promises instead of **believing our self-condemning hearts**.

We *know* **that Jesus lives in us** (3:24)

Because his Spirit **lives in us and tells us**

Getting to know you

We've been off for a few weeks and have just come off of Easter. Did you do anything special for Easter (special dinners, go out to eat, any special services or commemorations)?

Digging deeper

1. Read Romans 6:4, Galatians 2:20, and 1 John 4:13. Compare these three verses and jot down if you think there is a tie-in to the resurrection.
2. In 1 John 3:14-15, the writer gets pretty specific about the significance of love and it's relation to our confidence in having passed from death into life. What are some other things that people might have put down for a confidence builder? Why did John choose love as a defining characteristic?
3. 1 John 3:16-18 gets pretty personal with John changing from the plural "we" to the singular "if anyone." Then he gives a concrete example. Why does John get so specific? Does the statement "it's easy to love humanity, but it's hard to love people" apply? (check out v. 18)