



1 John 5:13: John is writing to rebuild the **assurance** of salvation back into his readers.

1 John 1:1-4

The first of the tests of the assurance of salvation is the **doctrinal** test of believing in the Jesus of history who is the Jesus of the Word – that Jesus is who **He** says He is.

1 John 2:3-11

The **moral** test is that you keep His **Word**. You live in His will. You may fail from time to time of course, but generally speaking you have a seriously dominating desire in your heart to **please** the Lord.

The **social** test is that you **love** your brother. There is no way to have understood the love of God expressed in Jesus on the cross and to have experienced that love in salvation and still to continue to **hate** your brother.

1 John 3:4-10

The moral test means Christians don't **go on** sinning without conflict over it and confession of it. Christians see sin in their lives and hate it, confess it, and **fight** it and do so more and more as they grow in Christ.

1 John 4

Chapter 4 develops the **social** test of loving your brother and connects it to the **doctrinal** test of a right belief in the real Jesus.

v. 9 – The preeminent display of the love of God is the **gift** of His one and only Son.

“*One and only*” means “of the same **essence** or substance.” It means that Jesus is just as much **God** as God is God.

v.10 – “*Atoning sacrifice for our sins*” means Jesus came to turn away the **deserved** wrath of God against us and to cover or take away our sins that **separate** us from a relationship of love with God so that we could get that back.

God **showed** us love by sending Jesus. And what **made** it love was the death and resurrection of Jesus.

v.11 – “*Ought to*” doesn't mean to express that it is an **option**. When you understand and experience the love of God that John just described, you **will** love in turn.

The love John is talking about is not the love of emotion, or physicality, or friendship. It is the love of the **will**; a love that is granted and given to someone who **needs** to be loved not just to someone who is somehow attracting that love.

v.12 – God's love is made **visible** when we love one another the way God calls us to in the Bible. We are to do that as a witness to the world that God's love is **true**.

v.13-16

God's love is **completed** in us when we love one another and when we share the truth that “the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world” with everyone we can.

Each of the tests God through John gives us to know that we are saved is designed to **draw** others to Jesus as well.

Is the love of God being **completed** in you more and more?
If not, why do you think that you are **saved**?