

We Shall Overcome

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: I John 5:1-5.

B. John concludes with the theme of maintaining assurance or confidence.

II. Fellowship with Jesus Christ ends in assurance.

A. This is the key that all men are looking for today.

B. There cannot be a claim to know God and a...

1. Walk of disobedience.

2. Denial of the Incarnation of the Son.

3. Mistreatment of one's brother.

C. Righteousness, truth and love must all be present in the authentic Christian.

D. If we love God, we should also love those who are His children—we are to love the members of the family of God no matter where they are.

1. The love of Christians is not limited to other Christians.

2. However, it must begin here.

E. Disagreements do not mean that we do not love a brother—if love is expressed by righteousness, one can be confident that it is real love.

1. Love sometimes has to do the unpleasant thing.

2. Love sometimes must be cruel to be kind.

3. White lies can be the worst of lies—only truth can set free.

F. God's commandments are not burdensome.

G. The one who overcomes the world is the one who believes in Christ.

1. We do not overcome the world—Jesus does.

2. All that we have is that we believe in His work in us.

3. Pressures to sin are all around us.

4. We conquer by faith. (Exodus 17)

5. We do need to fight against the power of Satan, but it is to no avail unless it is dependence upon God's activity in a person.

Application questions:

1. Why is love for Christians first so important in a believer's walk with Jesus?

2. How would you respond to someone who says that love never hurts a person?

3. What areas in your life would you like to exhibit more dependence upon God? Spend some time in prayer with a friend asking God that He will give over these areas.
