			There are two	Obedience leads to divine/human intimacy v.24
Acts of Love	God's word is greater than human conscience vv.19b-20	We have assurance before God in prayer vv. 21-22 • What God says about us gives us confidence before God	fundamental commandments v.23 • Belief in the name of Jesus Christ	Keeping these commands is what leads to the experience of intimacy (see John 15)
confirm our identity v.19	"heart" is conscience	 Obedience 	 "Agape" for one another 	The Spirit is the One who affirms
• "This" refers back to v.18	 What God says about us is greater than our own conscience 	reveals relationship; relationship means assurance in prayer		our connection to God (see Romans 8:16)
 Love is the final objective test of Christian 	The conscience is not always accurate	This promise is to be read in light of other conditions for answered		
professionTrue love	 The inner voice is not to overcome us 	prayer (e.g. James 4:2)		
is not natural to people in their fallen state	 The mind's knowledge silences the heart's doubts 			

ASSURANCE

I JOHN 3:19-24 (RSV)

- 19 And by this we shall know that we are of the truth, and reassure our hearts before him
- 20 whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.
- 21 Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God;
- 22 and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.
- 23 And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.
- 24 All who keep his commandments abide in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit which he has given us.

 Introduction question: What is the unifying theme of this passage?

• Steps of truth (each truth builds on the preceding one)