

God is Greater than our Hearts

1 John 3:20

If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

The people John was writing to were battered by false teachings that said that there were no moral restraints. As John encouraged them to fight this heresy, he also reminded them how much they were loved by God. This, in turn, was to empower them to love each other through these difficult circumstances. Given the strife-filled setting, showing love wasn't very easy.

The situation described here is similar to the one where Christians are assured that when they commit sin in their weakness, they have an Advocate with the Father. It is that love in Christ which again and again covers up all our guilt. As we Christians turn to Christ, we receive comfort against the strongest attacks of our consciences. Even all our shortcomings in brotherly love have been fully atoned for by the blood of Christ.

"If our hearts condemn us," means to find fault with or to blame and condemn. Sometimes we are our own worst enemies. As we are still pretty much isolated, our consciences can become over-active. What this shows is that we continue to live under the burden of the Law when God has already freed us from that load.

When our verse says "God is greater than our hearts," it tells us that the action of God brings a divine assurance to our troubled souls. He takes our weakness, faults and failures and covers them up with the blanket of Christ's righteousness.

But, be encouraged, "God knows everything." God knows our troubles, and He can, and does, comfort our hearts when we are miserable. God, who knows everything, gets the last word by stating that on the cross, Christ Jesus removed the guilt and condemnation of all. 1 John 1:7 reminds us that we are forgiven children of his because "the blood of Jesus, his Son, purified us from all sin." God also reminds us that as we are baptized, God has put his mark on us.

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus Christ, thank you that you have saved me from all of my sins by dying on the cross. Thank you also for rising and giving us the sure hope of everlasting life with you in heaven. Help me to come to you always when my mind convicts me of what I have done or what I have not done. In your precious name. Amen.