

III. EVIDENCE FROM REDEMPTION

A. REDEEMED INDIVIDUALS

1. Scriptural Warrant

Is there Scriptural warrant to believe that redeemed man is a line of evidence for the truth of Christianity?

Yes, it will be obvious at the judgment:

Matt 25:31-46; 1 Pet 2:12

Yes, it will be known sometime, perhaps before judgment

John 17:20-23; Matt 5:13-16

Yes, it can be known even now:

1 Pet 3:1-4

2. Lines of Argumentation:

a. **Personal experience** is consistent with the Biblical teaching regarding man's nature, regeneration, and the new life in Christ.

b. A Christian is definitely a **changed person**, though by no means a sinless person. He is not yet what he ought to be, but he is no longer what he once was.

3. Importance and Force of Argumentation:

a. This is one of the most important lines of evidence because it is **present immediately** to large numbers, including those not interested in Christianity.

b. It does not depend on the (technical) **training, intellect or cleverness** of the believer involved nor of the unbeliever.

c. Most religions in contact with Christianity feel **compelled to compete** in this area, but the mass of Christian testimony here is staggering, and not designed as evidence.

d. To **strengthen the force** of this argument, careful preaching and teaching is necessary:

(1) to help people distinguish true spirituality from cheap substitutes;

(2) to help Christians see their responsibility to live lives of true holiness;

(3) to encourage Christians with their real opportunities to serve the Lord in this most important area.