

# Evidence-Based Tests of Life

*Hammer away, ye unregenerate hands Your hammer breaks,  
God's anvil stands.*

(Huguenot monument)

Chiropractic has two big phases going on right now. For doctors who are treatment-based, there is the evidence-based outcome assessment. For those chiropractors oriented toward prevention, there is wellness. Both are current trends. As Solomon wisely said, "There is nothing new under the sun." Instead of a trend, let's look at some eternal tests and practices.

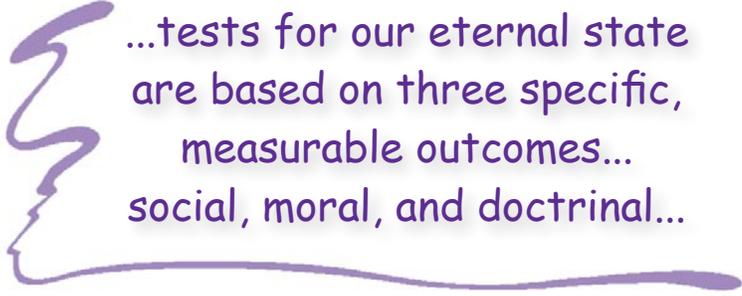
The Apostle John, in his first epistle, has three recurring themes that bind the book together. Those themes can form the basis for enduring Christian practice management if we apply them. John wrote them so "you may know that you have eternal life." But his tests for our eternal state are based on three specific, measurable outcomes. They can be labeled social, moral, and doctrinal or more simply stated as love, righteousness, and belief. All produce observable conduct. And if we are indeed Christians, they should be evident in our lives. They should draw those who observe them to us and to our Lord Jesus Christ.

I John states the social imperative of love in some interesting forms. In chapter 2:7-11 he gives us the "new commandment" to love one another, but he also states it negatively by telling us we cannot hate our brother. He goes on with the negative in 2:15-17 to tell us "love not the world." So here we have our first principle of practice management. Don't love the world, don't run your practices to get rich and serve yourself. Love your patients and demonstrate that love in how you practice. This has ramifications for all of your business practices. Such as how much you charge, how often you treat, and how you bill. There certainly are those in our profession who show hate by how they treat others - let's not be named among them.

As difficult as love is to show, John makes life harder by his moral imperative to righteousness. Righteousness, like love and belief, is observable. Our business practices need to be based on "keeping His

commandments" and "walking, even as He walked." If we claim to know God and abide in Him, then righteousness is an indispensable test. Jesus very simply summed His commandments by saying, "Love God and love your neighbor as yourself," but that does not make it easy. The unity of these tests is obvious.

Rev. Robert Law in his *Kerr Lecture* on the epistle says of Chapter 5:1-5, "The theme of the paragraph is - the Christian life tested by Belief of the truth, of which the Anointing Spirit is the supreme Witness and Teacher, that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God." This sums up the doctrinal test of belief. This test is the one on which eternity rests. Our conduct with others should be grounded on our belief that Christ came in the flesh, died, and arose from the grave. Ours is the only faith with a loving, resurrected savior. When patients say things that deny Him or are not based on His truth, we need to speak the truth in love. When we want management advice, the first thing we should ask of our teacher is, "What think ye of Christ?" How can we as Christians expect to be guided by anyone



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who does not know Him? So if you need a practice manager- there's your test.

Of course, we should first apply these tests to ourselves. They are meant to give us satisfaction and assurance that we are "begotten of God." Next apply them to your practice, and confirm it needs no adjustment.