

Sermon Notes

Big Idea: What's the difference between knowing about God and knowing God? What changes take place in your life when you have a genuine relationship with God? How can you be assured that your relationship with God is real? Let's discover what it means to abide.

Can you know that you really know God?
Abide: to stay or remain.

Four Keys to Knowing God:

- 1) Embrace the Facts about Jesus.
- 2) Experience Fellowship with Jesus.
- 3) Enjoy Friendship with Christians.
- 4) Evidence of Fruitfulness because of Jesus.

1 John 3:4-24 [ESV]

1. What the practice of SIN is (vs. 4) Rom. 3:23
2. Why sin doesn't fit with FOLLOWING God (vs. 5-6) Isa. 53, Jn 1:29, Rom. 7:15-19
3. Why sin is a BIG DEAL (vs. 7-8) Jn. 8:44, Isa. 14:12-14, Rom. 6:1-14
1 Cor. 15:3, 1 Pet. 1:18-19, Heb.2:14
4. What our LIFESTYLE says about us (vs. 9-10) 2 Cor. 5:17

Love...

- Is a COMMAND (vs. 11-12)
- Is EVIDENCE (vs. 13-15)
- In ACTION gives CONFIDENCE (vs. 16-22)

To Abide Means To BELIEVE God, OBEY God, and LOVE others. (vs. 23-24)

Discussion Questions

- 1) What impacted you the most from this week's message? Encouraged you? Challenged you?
- 2) Generally speaking, do you think Christians take sin seriously enough – why or why not? What might be some reasons why indifference can creep into our view of sin in our lives?
- 3) What is the difference between sin and a lifestyle characterized by sin? Is that an important distinction to draw?
- 4) What do you think progress in the Christian life looks like? Do you ever have moments when you wonder if you truly belong to God? If so, how do you deal with those thoughts when they come up?
- 5) Can you share of a time where you showed love to someone and felt yourself drawing closer to God in the process?
- 6) How have you felt God's love through other people? What did you learn about God through that experience? What's one way you can practice abiding this week by showing love toward others this week? (to your spouse, family, neighbors, co-workers, etc.)