

## 1 John 2:1-6 – The Will to Obey

Icebreaker: Explain a time in your youth when you directly disobeyed your parents. What happened?

*My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:1-2)*

### The opening statement:

*We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commands. (1 John 2:3)*

What part(s) of the Scriptures are hard for you to obey or believe? Why do you think are they hard?

### Two types of Christians:

- **Christian #1: The one who says** - “The man who says, ‘I know Him,’ but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” (1 John 2:4)

#### ☞ Four explanations why people who say they know Christ will not obey Him:

- 1) They are ignorant
- 2) They willingly disobey
- 3) They have given up
- 4) They have yet to meet Jesus

Which of the 4 explanations above is a tendency for you to disobey the Lord?

- **Christian #2: The one who does** – “But if anyone obeys His word, God’s love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him...” (1 John 2:5)

#### ☞ Four observations of the two types of Christians:

- 1) The “command” versus the “word” – Do you see God’s rules more as “commands” from a harsh rule giver or as a “word” from a loving father? What makes the difference?
- 2) The complete word – Do you believe the Bible is complete? What other sources of truth do you seek other than the Bible to live your life?
- 3) The benefit of complete love
- 4) The benefit of security

Have you seen a correlation between obeying the Lord **AND** loving completely/knowing you are securely “in Him?” or describe a time you’ve experienced complete (unconditional) love and/or been totally at peace (security) with life.

### The concluding statement:

*Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did. (1 John 2:6)*

John says that we have a moral obligation (“must”) to conduct our lives like Jesus did if you claim to be a follower of Jesus. What areas fall short in your life and why do they fall short? What would it take today to reconcile those areas in order to experience Psalm 34:8 below? Pray about that as a group.

*Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him. (Psalm 34:8)*