

How Do I Know?

1 John 2:3-6

Critical spirit or the heart of a shepherd, a spirit not of critique but of compassion.

A little lamb comes sobering over, usually jubilant and bouncing across the meadow but now all gloomy and glum, unsure if they are a sheep.

How close do you want to be to the Lord?

How do I know if I know Him?

Chapter 1 John was dealing with false faith

Chapter 2 John was dealing with the threat of false relationship.

I KNOW HIM!!! – Not I met Him...

Question for you, “How do I know that I know God?”

You can know!!!

We know that we know Him.

I KNOW HIM!!! – Not I met Him...

Know – to learn to know, come to know, get a knowledge of perceive, to understand and have knowledge of. (Ride a bike)

Answer: If we keep His commandments

(3-4) Keeper of His commandments

vs. 4 He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

(Shake off the confusion that false teachers sow into our thinking.)

(Look in the mirror and receive the observation)

Hypocrisy (within self not others)

Do as I say and not as I do.

Hypocrisy IS... is not living the convictions you preach.

Hypocrisy is NOT... having a testimony.

“I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. – again, John is not being mean, he is stating calmly an undeniably clear fact.

- **It's like claiming to be a fish but having no gills or scales.**
- **Like claiming to be a bird but having no wings or feathers.**
- **Claiming to be a child of God but not walking in God's truth/light.**
- **I am a new creation but there is nothing new about your thinking and living.**

(Checking for vital signs)

When The Holy Spirit through John is saying that Authentic believers obey commandments, what is being communicated? What are commandments?

Commandments... this is entry level understanding.

10 commandments

- No more adultery
- Don't steal
- Don't lie
- Forgive others as God has forgiven you
- (WORK TRUCK SANCTUARY & SEMINARY)

A knowledge OF God and then a Love FOR God are like the right and left shoe... VERY similar and yet different, no one want's two left shoes.

Like a fresh spring bubbling up from beneath the surface, our new nature will be this new, refreshing, desire. Swelling from within and permeating every area of our life to please our heavenly father more than to please ourself.

Motives for obedience

- **Do you** "NOT SIN" out of fear?
- Do you "NOT SIN" out of love?
- **YES!** (*Neither is wrong but one is better than the other*)
- *The son who later obeyed* (**Matthew 21:28-32**)

PERFECTLY?!

- **NO!!!** Remember what we just learned
- *I write these things that you may not sin*
- *But I also write these things so that if you do, you have an advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous.* – Propitiation vs. expiation

The simplicity and joy of walking with Jesus.

Keep my commandments...

Deuteronomy

John 14:15-16 "If you love Me, keep My commandments. "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.

Isaiah

Matthew 15:8 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.

Men either love God or they do not. There is no gradation.

Learning to walk may take a minute, but being born again simply IS.

The Fruit Facts of Faith

1. Keeping His Commandments
2. Keeping His Word
3. Walking His Walk

Not that they will have to, they will want to. It's a new nature.

(5) Keeper of His Word

VERSE 5 seems to be the central pin that holds it all together.

Doctrine & Theology – that you would learn the truth.

Life & Commandments – that you would live the truth .

Doctrine and theology should add life and vibrancy, not difficulty and a burden.

WORD:

Commandments vs. Words... commandments, what He has literally said to do or not to do. **His words, the boarder sense of knowing the nature and will of God.**

Think of the man, bedridden being lowered down from the roof.

This is a holy moment, rebuke them for damaging and vandalizing property and disrupting the king of Kings!!! How dare they intrude upon the teachings of Jesus... don't they know, can't they sense this is a holy moment, they should have been like Mosses and the burning bush, removing their shoes for it was holy ground.

The African with two wives.

We know we are in Him if we have a concern and love for Him.

Only believers are wanting to please the Lord (WANTING... it's a joy)

Keeps His Word - *Love of God is perfected*

Love – say less, do more!

Charitably, feasts of charity, to hold dear,

(someone shows up... let them in.)

First time used in Scripture Matthew 24:10-12 grow cold

Luke 6:32-33 “But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. “And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

Perfected – to accomplish, to make complete.

To carry through completely.

That you and the Lord are living in tandem with one another so well that His purposes are being lived out into other people's lives through you.

If you walk in love

- It covers a multitude of sins in the lives of others.

- It also heals the wounds that sin has left in yours

Some have HEAVY burdens BECAUSE of unforgiveness.

(6 – Walk His Walk)

He who says he abides in Him out himself also to walk just as He walked.

Again the claim should match your convictions, and convictions should give way to your actions.

Abide – to remain, not to depart from a place, to be continually present, to last or endure, to remain as one in, not to become another or different. To wait and keep waiting. – *if the Holy Spirit left, would you know?*

GOD WILL PRUNE YOUR LIFE AS YOU ARE LIVING IT.

To Abide is to live!

- What about the cross was ½ way
- What about the scourging was tempered with realism & the desire to fit in.
- Jesus knew who He was... isn't that enough. Just blend in.

To WALK

- Greek to make one's way or to progress, to make due use of opportunities

- The Hebrew equivalent is to live, to regulate one's life, to conduct one's self,

Walk = live, walk = act, walk = talk, walk = feel, walk = avoid, walk = engage.

(Read the Gospels and see how Jesus was with different people)

(You will learn real quick where the Lord is in different situations.)

You may not be doing something Jesus said, but you'll be how Jesus is.

The set up... ask questions

The self-righteous... rebuke

The suffering... have mercy

The stillness... pray

The stupid or struggling... teach

The starving... feed

Sinned against... extend forgiveness

ENDING

KEEP- to attend to carefully, take care of, to observe, to stay in the state in which something is... not to change.

To live, abide, walk, be like...

- A balloon filled with helium can't not float
- A rock placed on the surface of water can't not sink
- A believer, born again through faith in Christ, can't NOT want the Lord.

Follow Christ... live how Christ lived...

Praise or persecution

Blessings or burdens

You can respond in defeat or in determination or in delight.

- By this we know that we know Him – keep His commandments
- By this we know that we are IN Him – keep His word.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

How close do you want to be to the Lord?

- Every time you respond to conviction and the Word you take a step towards Him.
- Every time you resist it, you take a step away from Him.