

This is How We Know

Read: 1 John 2:3-11

Main Idea: True knowledge of God is evidenced by our obedience and love for others, reflecting a life lived in the light of Christ.

Key Verses: “And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.” (1 John 2:3) “Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.” (1 John 2:6)

Key Principles

- Obedience never earns a relationship with God, but a growing pattern of obedience gives us real confidence that the relationship is genuine.
- When our walk keeps contradicting our talk, we should not excuse it as a small inconsistency but examine whether we truly know Him at all.
- As we treasure and guard God's Word like a precious possession, our love for Him matures toward the goal He intends for it.
- Abiding in Christ is the power source for living like Christ, so we follow in His steps by leaning on His strength rather than our own.
- The command to love is as old as Moses and as new as the cross, so we are called to love others with the depth Jesus revealed.
- Lingering resentment toward a brother or sister blinds us to our own hearts, while love keeps our path clear and keeps others from stumbling.

Discussion

1. Why does John present obedience as evidence that we know God rather than a way to earn His favor? How does that shape the way you seek assurance?
2. In what area of life are your words about knowing God most likely to run ahead of your obedience to Him?
3. What would it look like for you to walk in the same way Jesus walked at home, at work, or in your neighborhood?
4. How is the command to love one another both old and new? What about the love of Jesus makes it new for you?
5. Why does John say that hating a brother leaves a person blind? How can bitterness keep us from seeing our own hearts clearly?
6. Who is one brother or sister in Christ you have found hard to love? What specific step will you take this week to show them Christlike love?

Prayer

- Pray for hearts that show they know God through obedience and love.
- Pray for:
 - Our church to proclaim a gospel that changes how we live.
 - Grace to keep His Word and walk as Jesus walked.
 - A love for one another that shines Christ's light to our city.

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1 John 2:3-11

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| I. | <u>Keep His Word.</u> | 2:3-5 |
| 1. | <u>Obey</u> and be <u>assured</u> . | 2:3, 5 |
| 2. | <u>Disobey</u> and be <u>exposed</u> . | 2:4 |
| II. | <u>Bear His Image.</u> | 2:6-8 |
| 1. | <u>Walk</u> as He <u>walked</u> . | 2:6 |
| 2. | <u>Love</u> as He <u>loved</u> . | 2:7-8 |
| III. | <u>Shine His Light.</u> | 2:9-11 |
| 1. | <u>Refuse</u> to <u>hate</u> . | 2:9, 11 |
| 2. | <u>Resolve</u> to <u>love</u> . | 2:10 |

NEXT WEEK:
The Love God Hates
1 John 2:12-17