

## I John 2:3-11 - Testing Our Obedience

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6-26-19

V. 3 - "By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments."

- Christian \_\_\_\_\_ depends upon ongoing \_\_\_\_\_
- "by this we know" then "come to know"
  - From Gk. γινώσκω ("ginóskó")
  - First: knowing something to be the case, \_\_\_\_\_
  - Second: personal \_\_\_\_\_: "fellowship" (1:4), "walking in his light" (1:7), being "in" him (2:5-6)
- How do we know we know? If we keep "his commands"
  - Gk. ἐντολή ("entolé", 14x)
    - Singular → always refers to Christ's command for his followers to love one another (2:7, 8; 3:23; 4:21)
    - Plural → no *explicit* reference, but implied

**Statement #1:** 2:4 - "The one who says, 'I have come to know Him,' and does not keep His commandments..."

- "to know" → Gk. perfect tense. "Does not keep" → Gk. present tense
  - I.E. Past knowledge with present consequences, but not actively keeping his commands
- He "is a liar, and the truth is not in him"
  - Salvation ≠ past declaration/experience/event
  - Salvation = ongoing intimate relationship in loving *koinonea*.
  - 2:5a - "whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected"
    - Love for God is expressed in moral \_\_\_\_\_

**Statement #2:** 2:5b-6 - "By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked."

- "Abiding in him" - 10x (2:5, 6, 27, 28; 3:6, 24; 4:13, 15, 16; 5:20)
  - The new and very spiritual existence believers enjoy by means of the giving of God's Spirit, the one who bears witness to its reality and truth.
  - Personhood: To truly be is to be in \_\_\_\_\_ to another
    - Relationship = interpenetrating reality
  - We can \_\_\_\_\_ we are in him (John 14:20) when we "\_\_\_\_\_ in the same manner in which he walked"
- 2:7 - "Beloved...this is what you heard from the beginning"
  - The message proclaimed through his apostolic preaching encapsulated in his gospel
  - 2:8 - the old command is Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ command (John 13:34)
    - "It's truth is seen in him and you" (NIV) → it's reality is truly expressed
- Connection to the new age ushered in by Christ and his Spirit (v. 8b)
  - Darkness = the \_\_\_\_\_ in which sinful behavior predominates (cf. 2:17; Ephesians 5)

**Statement #3:** V. 9 - “The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now.”

- 1:6 → darkness of sin. Here: darkness → the one who “hates his brother”
  - Not \_\_\_\_\_ brother, but \_\_\_\_\_ brother
  - You can’t hate ANY brother and claim to be in the light/have intimacy with God (v. 10)
  - Love never trips another up
- Conversely, v. 11 - “But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.”
  - John 12:35-36 - “Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes....Believe in the light, so that you might become sons of light.”

The test of authenticity of your spiritual experience is not inner feelings, super spiritual insight, or anything else. According to John, the test is your obedience to Christ’s command to love.