

**Life That Is Real**  
**“How To Know That You Know Him”**  
**I John 2:3-11**

**Introduction** - John tells us in his first letter why he wrote:

1. That your joy may be full, 1:4.
2. That you sin not, 2:1.
3. That you be not deceived, 2:26.

But none of these reasons could have any real effect in our lives without reason number four:

4. That you may know that you have eternal life, 5:13.

Without assurance, nothing else matters!

John wants us “*to know, that we know Him!*” But how? Anybody can say, vs. 4(know), vs. 6 (abide), vs. 9 (light). Answer, two tests:

1. The moral test of *obedience*.
2. The social test of *love*.

**I. The Moral Test of Obedience**, vv. 3-6

John in these verses teaches that there can be no fellowship with God apart from obedience to His commands. We are not saved by keeping His commands, but heart filled obedience is the expression of true salvation.

Why is John saying this?

The Gnostics false teaching lead to “antinomianism” or “lawlessness.” Gnosticism concerned itself with intellectual attainment; but Christianity requires moral conduct. The false teachers claimed that knowledge of God freed men from the obligations of the moral law.

John say, “No.” Loving obedience is the only way of proving that we may know God.

So nothing can take its place!

Illus.: “*Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams,*” I Samuel 15:22

How about you?

### **1. The General Statement of the Test, vs. 3.**

John moves from the term “fellowship” to describe the believer’s relation to God, to “knowing Christ.” The two concepts are parallel, also to “walk in the light” (vs. 1:7) is to “keep his commandments.”

The knowledge John writes about in verses three and four is not theoretical, nor speculative (Gnostic), but it is “experiential.” Gr. “Gnosis.”

It’s not knowing “about” Him, it’s knowing Him!

Illus.: Paul said, Phil. 3:10, “*that I may know Him...*” Also, “*for I know whom I have believed in.*”

But how do we know that we know Him? Verse 3, “*If we ‘keep’ (Gr. present tense) His commandments.*”

It’s submission and conformity to His will found in His word!

It’s both our *outward conduct* and *inward disposition*.

Keeping God’s commands is the pattern of life for the person who truly knows God.

Ask yourself, “*Do I?*”

### **2. The Application Test, vv. 4-5.**

- a. The Claim, vs. 4. “He that says I know Him.”
- b. The Test, “Keepth not his commandments.” So you don’t pass the test.
- c. The Results of failing the test, vs. 4.
  1. You are a liar.
  2. The truth is not in you.

But some, Pass the Test, vs. 5.

- “You keep His word,” vs. 5 (What? It’s habitual.)

- God's love or our love for God is perfected. Jesus said, "*He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he is that loveth me,*" John 14:21.
- So bringing assurance, vs. 5b.

### 3. John's Summary Statement, vs. 6

If you say, "I abide in Him" or "know Him" or "keep His commandments," then you should "walk as He walked," vs. 6. It's not His walk on water! It's His walk of holiness.

- We are to walk in the light, 1:7; 3:3 & 3:7.
- Also, to walk in forgiveness. Illus.- Eph. 4:32.
- In the home, Eph. 5.
- Paul said in Gal. 2:20.
- Jesus said... "*I do always those things that please Him...*" John 8:29.

So what is your attitude toward the Word of God? How do you view the commandments of God? *Do you pass the test?*

## II. The Social Test; of Love, vv. 7-11

Keeping God's commands are evidence of a real knowledge of God. But now, John singles out a specific command for specific attention; the command to love!

Why love? It could be because it includes all the other commandments! Also, remember John was thinking of the false teaching of the Gnostics whose arrogant, contemptuous exclusiveness was the epitome of an unloving attitude.

If ever there was a birthmark of a true follower of Christ that mark is "love."

Jesus said, "By this shall all men know..."

Now! Let's look together at the text.

### 1. We see "the commandment described," vv. 7-8.

- a. It's oldness, vs. 7.
- b. It's newness, vs. 8a.

"Old as the sun, new as the dawn."

- c. It's newness to this new era, vs. 8c.

## **2. The test of love applied, vv. 9-11.**

In these verses John makes clear that one's response to the command to love reveals a person's essential character. "The man who habitually breaks the command shows that he belongs to the darkness; the man who habitually keeps it shows that he belongs to the light." Study verses 9-11.

The contrast - the true and the false.

### **The Lovers, vs. 10:**

1. Abide in the Light.
2. They do not stumble. If we love people, we see how to avoid sinning against them.

### **The Haters, vs. 11:**

1. In darkness - His existence
2. Walks in darkness - His actions.
3. Knows not where he is going - No direction or goal in life.

The result - His blindness. vs 11b.

Do you keep His commands?

Do you love your brother?

Do you pass the test?

### **If you are a child of God you:**

1. Walk in the light, 1:7.
2. Confess your sins, 1:9.
3. Obey His commands, 2:3.
4. Love your brother, 2:10.

In light and not stumbling.

**If you are not a true child of God:**

1. Walk in darkness, 1:6
2. Deny your sinfulness, 1:8.
3. You don't keep His commands, 2:4.
4. You hate your brother, 2:9.

Blind with no purpose or direction.