

“A CALL TO OBEDIENT BEHAVIOR”

The Moral Test of Authentic Christianity

1 John 2:3-6

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Last week, in 1 John 1:5-2:2, we learned that sin is the enemy of fellowship with God and with Christians. Sin defeats fellowship (1:6, 7), disregards truth (1:8, 9), and devalues salvation (1:10-2:2). Our text focused on this – *To have fellowship with the holy God, we must not walk in the darkness, but walk in the light. To have fellowship with God, we must begin with God and His authoritative revelation of Himself (1:5), we must not walk in the darkness (1:6, 8, 10), we must walk in the light, as He Himself is in the light (1:7, 9), and we must understand God’s grace as seen in Christ’s sacrifice for our sins (2:1-2).*

This week, in 1 John 2:3-6, we learn that genuine Christians obey God’s Word. One simple outline is this:

- Obedience Indicates Salvation. 2:3
- Disobedience Indicates Lack of Salvation. 2:4
- Obedience Leads to Love for God. 2:5
- Obedience Leads to Christlikeness. 2:6

You can know that you truly know Jesus Christ if you walk in obedience to His Word.

I. An Encouragement for Assurance. 1 John 2:3-5a

- God wants us to know Him.
- God wants us to know that we know Him.
- The way that we know that we truly have come to know God is by walking in obedience to His Word.

II. An Exhortation for Action. 1 John 2:5b-6

The first and most obvious test to see if a person knows Jesus Christ is the test of obedient moral behavior. The encouragement for assurance and the exhortation for action are found in obeying God’s

commands, His Scripture, and walking like Jesus walked. These actions are the evidence for assurance of salvation.

LET’S DISCUSS!

Questions for Further Learning in our Growth Groups

1 John 2:3-6

OPEN

- ✓ What are some criteria that we use to determine if someone is – an athlete? a musician? a potentially good employee?
- ✓ What are some criteria that people (we) use to determine if someone is – a Christian? a “good” Christian?

UNPACK

- ✓ 2:3 What test did John describe for knowing whether or not a person truly knows God?
- ✓ 2:4 Why is it a lie to claim to know God without obeying Him? Or, if you would rather answer – Why is disobedience equated with lying about knowing God?
- ✓ 2:5 How does obedience lead into love? Why does obedience make the love of God perfect (complete, fulfilled) in a person?
- ✓ 2:6 How does John define obedience to God?

UNDERSTAND

- ✓ How does obedience to God’s Word demonstrate that a person truly knows God?
- ✓ In light of 1:8-10, does John mean that we know God only if we perfectly obey all His commands? What does he mean, and why do you think so?
- ✓ How does 2:4 guide us in discerning which teachers of Christianity we should listen to? How can we decide who knows truth?
- ✓ What have you learned recently about what it means for you to walk as Jesus did? How did you learn that lesson?

APPLY

- ✓ Do you ever wonder whether you really know God? How can you be sure that you do?

- ✓ In what area of your life do you most need to improve in walking as Jesus did? What can you do about this, and what help do you need from God or other believers?