

KNOWING THE LORD **(1 John 2:3-6)**

I. John's proposition (vs 3).

- A. The Gnostics claimed superior knowledge of God.
 - 1. They said they had knowledge no one else had.
 - 2. They were insiders in the spiritual world.
- B. John says you can know that know God.
 - 1. This knowledge was intimate knowledge.
 - 2. This is the idea of the word "know" in this verse.
- C. We can know that we have an intimate fellowship with the Lord.
- D. The way that we know it is by keeping the commandments of the Lord.
 - 1. The tense indicates a continual keeping.
 - 2. It is not a one time act but by the way that you live your life, you continue to keep the commandments of God.
- E. In expository preaching, you, as a rule, stay with the text, but there is one verse that really aids in our understanding of this verse, and it is Titus 1:16.
 - 1. There were some that claimed to know God.
 - 2. However, the way they lived proved they did not know God.
- F. Another verse that is important is John 14:15.
 - 1. The way to show knowledge and love of God is to keep His commandments.
 - 2. There is no knowledge of God where there is no obedience and love.
- G. The knowledge referenced here is not a mere acknowledgment of His existence.
 - 1. It means a relationship.
 - 2. As John has already talked about, it is an indication of fellowship with God.
- H. Someone might ask, "Which commandments are meant here?"
 - 1. The answer is all of them.
 - 2. Is there one commandment that we can consistently break and remain in fellowship with God and say that we do have knowledge of God?
 - 3. If there is, which one is it?
- I. John proposes that if we have knowledge of God, it is shown by our keeping His commandments.

II. The Gnostics assertion (vs 4).

- A. The Gnostics said they had great knowledge of God but refused to keep His commandments.
 - 1. They lived to fulfill the flesh.
 - 2. They involved themselves in the sins of the world and lived their lives totally out of harmony with God's will.
- B. There is absolutely no way that one can say they are in fellowship with God and not keep His commandments and be truthful.
 - 1. It would be like one saying I love my spouse but continually cheats

- on him/her.
 - 2. It would be like saying I love my parents but constantly disobeying them.
 - 3. It does not add up.
- C. This person is said to be a liar and devoid of truth.
 - 1. He is not guilty of a little white lie, but his character is that of one who is a liar in all things.
 - 2. This is his character.
- D. Guy N. Woods points out that this idea is alive and well today in the form of Calvinism.
 - 1. One of the tenets of this false doctrine is unconditional election.
 - 2. It says that there are those that are chosen by God to be saved and they can do nothing about it.
 - 3. No matter how they live in rebellion to God, if they have been chosen by God, they are going to be saved.
 - 4. This verse clearly refutes that idea.

III. **Love's perfection (vs 5).**

- A. "Keepeth His word" is equal to "keeping His commandments."
- B. It is also in the same tense, in that it means keep on keeping.
- C. The love of God is not God's love for us but our love for God.
 - 1. When we keep His commandments, we grow in love for God.
 - 2. This is equal to walking in the light from the first chapter.
- D. Perfected means to bring to completion.
 - 1. When we keep God's commandments, it is a sign that our love for God is maturing.
 - 2. We don't keep God's commandments because we have to, but because we love God.
 - 3. The more we get to know God, the more we love and want to keep His commandments because it pleases Him.
- E. This is much like the desire to please our spouse by doing the things he/she likes out of love, not out of duty.
- F. By being obedient or disobedient, we reveal to the world who we love.
- G. When our love is perfected, shown by keeping His commands out of love, we know that we are in Him.
 - 1. The words "in him" show a very deep relationship with God.
 - 2. We know that we are in fellowship with God when we are keeping all of His commandments the best we can.

IV. **The Christian's imitation (vs 6).**

- A. If we say we are in Christ, a relationship with Christ, then our actions should imitate those of Christ.
- B. This does not have reference to His acts as deity, but His everyday life while on earth.
 - 1. We are going to be in fellowship with God the way Jesus was while on earth, shown by His commitment to the will of God.
 - 2. We are going to work, worship, talk, act and do all we can to be like Jesus while He was on earth.

- C. The word "ought" is interesting.
1. It means to be in debt.
 2. The meaning here is that if we claim to be in fellowship with God, we are morally obligated to walk as the Savior did while He was on earth.
 3. We are indebted to act like what we profess to be.
 4. If we enter into a contract, we ought to meet the terms of a contract: it is the morally right thing to do.
 5. If we say we are in fellowship with God, we ought to act the way Jesus did: it is the morally right thing to do.