

Do You Really Know Him?

I John 2:3-6

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Someone once said that the best way to become acquainted with anyone is to spend time with them on a regular basis and even then, that may not be enough, because we as human beings do not possess the ability to know all that there is to know about an individual.

As human beings, we are limited in our perspective, meaning, we do not possess the ability to view things (as objects or events) in their true relationship or relative importance. If we did, however, possess the ability to view things (as objects or events) in their relationship or relative importance, we would have an entirely different view of our world, our witness, our work, and certainly our worship.

Let me give you one example – we as Christians (Believers, Disciples), know that we have been commanded (commissioned) to share the gospel (Matthew 28:18-20), but too many of us as Christians (Believers, Disciples), do not share the gospel because we have our own perspective. We should have the perspective of Jesus in that He can view things (as objects or events) in their relationship or relative importance. Jesus truly knows the value of a human soul and that is, I believe, why we should be obedient when it comes to sharing the gospel.

It all boils down to one word – obedience.

John, the son of Zebedee, says to us, “By this we know, that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.” (I John 2:3 NAS)

One of the ways that is evident that we know Jesus (to have an intimate relationship with) is that we will do (obey) what He has commanded us to do. A sincere, loving obedience will result in fellowship with Jesus.

John 14:15 – “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”

John 14:21 – “He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”

When we as believers obey the commands of Christ it demonstrates our love for Jesus and the Father. Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit believers are transformed and regenerated and as a result, works of love are expressed, exposed, and expedited.

Those works of love are produced by the Holy Spirit who pours them into the hearts of believers, for believers cannot produce these works of love on their own. They are produced as believers abide in Christ.

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John 15:4-5 – “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

Yes, John is saying to us, if you really know Him, you will demonstrate that you know Him, by doing what He says.

John continues to admonish us by saying to us that you really do not know Him if you do not do what He says. John says we are liars and the truth is not in us.

1 John 2:4 – The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;”

There are some believers who “talk that talk but do not walk that walk.” They say one thing from their lips but their lives demonstrate just the opposite of what they have spoken.

There were false teachers who were trying to mislead the first-century Christians by denying the true humanity of Jesus and John wanted to expose these false teachers.

Paul wrote to Titus in regards to false teachers as well, “For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, 11 who must be

silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain.” Titus 1:10-11 (NAS)

One common thread that runs through all false teachers is that they are always “in it” for the money (sordid gain). False teachers must always be exposed and not tolerated.

Believers must always make a determined effort not to trust in themselves but to trust in the power of the Holy Spirit to walk in obedience. When believers walk in obedience it demonstrates that they really know (possess an intimate relationship with) Jesus.

We all as believers do not always obey The Lord as we should, because we all “fall short” and He is aware of this. That is why when we do “fall short” we should obey The Word and confess our sins.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” I John 1:9 (NAS)

Believers can rely on, trust in, depend on Our Heavenly Father to be true to His Word. He will not only “forgive us” but He will also “cleanse us” – all the way, completely.

Colossians 2:13-14 “When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgression,

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14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.” (NAS)

Somebody hold my mule while I shout right now!

Those who love Him, know Him, and trust Him, will obey Him.

John continues in I John 2:5, “but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him.”

John also makes the connection between our obedience and our love for God. A “perfected” (mature, complete) love for God will show itself in obedience, and the presence of this obedience and love gives us assurance that we are in Jesus “(By this we know that we are Him”).

When a person becomes a believer (Christian), his/her relationship with sin should change. Sin is not eliminated in the believer's life until he/she is in the Presence of The Lord in heaven; but while here on earth, the believer's relationship to sin is changed when he/she becomes a Christian.

- No longer loves sin
- No longer brags about his/her sin
- No longer plans to sin
- No longer fondly remembers his/her sin
- No longer is comfortable in habitual sin

Believers do not become sinless when they accept Jesus Christ but after walking with Him for a while (perfected, mature, complete), believers should sin less. My! My! My!

Romans 6:12-14 –“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, 13 and do not go on presenting the members of you body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.” (NAS)

Many believers (Christians) do not experience what Romans 6:12-14 declares due to unbelief, self-reliance, or ignorance, and as a result, never live in the freedom Jesus paid for on the cross.

Believers (Christians) must resist sin. We must not allow sin to reign, have authority, rule, control, etc. over us.

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The Christian's body is not the source of sin, but the Bible says and man's experience proves that the body is the instrument of sin and corruption – so much that the sensual appetites of the body tend to enslave the soul and lead men to sin, even against his better judgment.

As believers (Christians) we must always be aware of the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life will pull at us, but we must resist it in the power of the Holy Spirit and not our own human power.

So, what should we do to ensure that sin is not reigning in us? Is any sin reigning in your life? Think about what area you just cannot seem to surrender to God's control.

As you reflect on the previous paragraph, what popped into your mind? You do not have to say it out loud, but whatever it was, that is the area you need to work on and surrender to God's control to resist that sin.

"Kill it" before it can grow and spread and "infect" other areas of our lives.

Paul reminds us of the struggle to fight against sin and to control and protect the members of our bodies. (Romans 7:14-20)

Believers (Christians) must yield to God and present their lives in a genuine and sincere manner; yield the members (feet, hands, eyes, etc.) of their bodies as instruments of righteousness unto God. Their whole attitude to sin must change. Every part of the body can sin. With our eyes, we can look at the wrong things. With our ears, we can listen to bad talk. Our mouths can say things that can hurt other people. Believers should not use their bodies as tools to serve sin. Instead, Believers should use their bodies to serve our God; do what He wants, go where He wants us to go, do what He says.

Christians do not have any righteousness of their own. They accept the righteousness of Christ, this identifies their life in Christ, accepts the grace of God demonstrated in Jesus Christ, and maintains an open relationship with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:16 – "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh." (NAS)

Walking (living) each day, moment by moment, by faith in God's Word, under the control, guidance, and direction of the Holy Spirit, is the only way to defeat the desire of the flesh. We cannot do this in our own strength, only in the power of the Holy Spirit can we overcome "...the sin which so easily entangles us, ..." (Hebrews 12:1 NAS).

Now, this may sound simple and even elementary, but the appeal is simply for us to, in the power of the Holy Spirit, "...lay aside every encumbrance and the sin..."

It all boils down to choice. Our choices are not always between right and wrong, but between something that may hinder us and something else that may not. Is there a weight in your life you must lay aside?

John continues in I John 2:6, “the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.”

This verse completes what John wrote in verse 5. Anyone claiming to “abide” in Christ should “walk” or live, as Jesus lived. In other words, walk that walk and talk that talk. My! My! My!

Anyone who claims to be “in Christ” but fails to live like Him certainly does not have a fellowship relationship with Him. Those who do not demonstrate a Christ-like lifestyle are – at minimum – failing to provide evidence of their salvation.

When we are abiding in Jesus, we will walk just as He walked – live lives of obedience and love. When we want to walk just as He walked, we need to begin by abiding in Him.

We are not called to imitate the way Jesus walked on water, but we are called to live by the example He set for us.

The person who knows God will increasingly lead a life that is marked by righteousness. For God is righteous.

It does not mean that he will be sinless but as he lives for the Lord, day by day and moment by moment, he will get to a place in his life wherein he sins less.

John previously addressed the issue regarding having not sinned, “If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.” I John 1:10 (NAS)

Anyone who says that he has not sinned is lying.

Since God is righteous, John reminds us that we who profess to be believers (Christians), we should live our lives “...in the same manner as He walked.”

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