

The First Epistle of John

(Week 7 – 1John 2:3)

I. Week-6 Quiz

- A. Have the disciples do the quiz before class starts
- B. Go over the answers by way of asking.

II. Quick Review:

A. Walking in the light involves:

1. Recognizing God's holiness (God is light)
2. Fellowshiping with God (sharing His holiness, will, hatred for sin, etc.)
3. Acknowledging one's own sin and confessing them.
4. Making it one's goal not to "miss the mark" that God has ordained.
5. Being:
 - a. Saved from God's wrath (propitiation) – Romans 5:9
 - b. Cleansed of guilt (expiation)
 - c. Reconciled to God (atoned)

III. The Test Patterns for True Believers

A. Is it possible to know whether or not our Christianity is genuine?

1. John makes it simple with three test questions:

- a. Do you *KNOW* God? (vv. 3-4)
- b. Do you *WALK* as Jesus walked? (vv. 5-6)
- c. Do you *LOVE* your brothers and sisters in Christ? (vv. 7ff)
- d. We will deal with the first two questions tonight.

2. 1John 2:3-6 (ESV): *“And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. (4) Whoever says ‘I know him’ but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (5) but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him (6) whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”*

3. Do you know God?

- a. The quick answer is *“Yes, I know God. Why would you ask a simple question like that?”*
- b. If we were to thoroughly examine that question, it may cause one to reconsider their answer
 - i. **Question: What is the difference between “knowing of” someone and “knowing” someone?**
 - We *“know of”* someone by someone else (TV, radio, article, other persons, etc.)
 - However, do we really know them?
 - Do they like mustard, ketchup, mayonnaise?
 - Do they believe the Bible is the Word of God?
 - Are they followers of Christ?

- Then there are those whom you know as
 - Acquaintances, then friends, then good friends, then close friends, then intimate friends
 - Where does God fit in the list?
 - Do you “know of” Him?
 - Do you know a lot about Him?
 - Do you know Him personally?
- c. *“(3)And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.”*
- i. John makes it clear that we can KNOW God
 - ii. He also tells us how we can KNOW God: Obey Him!
 - iii. In Matthew 7:21-23
 - These people thought they knew God
 - They thought they were led by the Holy Spirit (casting demons, prophesying, doing mighty works)
 - How can they be lost? How can Jesus tell them, “I never knew you?”
 - Because the test is not in the ability to prophesy, cast demons or perform mighty works
 - The test is obedience to His will!
 - Those who KNOW God obey His will!
 - Some examples of His commandments:
 - Treat God’s people as if they were Christ (Matthew 25:33ff)
 - Sharing the message of salvation with the lost (Mark 16:15)
 - Character commands:
 - a. Get rid of bitterness, slander, etc (Eph. 4:31)
 - b. Be kind, compassionate, forgiving (Eph. 4:32)
 - Those who KNOW God are people of conviction
 - **Question: What is the difference between having a belief and having a conviction?**
 - A person of conviction does not compromise what he knows to be true and right
 - a. Getting a person of conviction to lie will be very difficult to do
 - b. A person of conviction is led by the Spirit
 - c. A person of conviction makes it his goal to please God
 - d. By definition: the word “conviction” means having a strong or fixed belief
 - **Question: How does one develop deep convictions?**
 - a. Simple answer: be in the word; be in prayer; be in fellowship! (Acts 2:42)
 - b. 1John is all about being in fellowship with God and one another!