

# The First Epistle of John

## (Week 8 – 1John 2:4-6)

### I. Week-7 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. Fellowship 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)
6. Knowing God
  - a. Expressed by keeping His commands
    - i. Greek word "keep" is "tereo" which means "to guard; to keep an eye upon"
    - ii. Keeping His commands is more than a mere "following a set of rules," it is an attitude.
    - iii. A man who KNOWS God "guards" God's commands.
    - iv. His desire is to please God (2Cor. 5:9), and not to disappoint Him, even if he is mocked by others who claim to follow God!

#### B. Last Class:

1. The Test Patterns for True Believers
  - 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)

#### C. Tonight: Walking as Jesus walked

1. 1John 2:4-5a (ESV): *"(4)Whoever says 'I know him' but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, (5a) but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected..."*
  - a. Again, John is attacking the Gnostic belief system:
    - i. They claimed to know God, they claimed to be saved, yet their lives were no different than the world's lifestyle!
    - ii. A true believer does not make Jesus their Savior and Satan their Lord!
    - iii. People who claim to know God and live ungodly lives *"pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ"* (Jude 1:4 ESV)

- b. (Frame) The word “*perfected*”
    - i. Greek word, “*teleioo*” – teh-ley-yo
      - Means “*complete; fulfill; finish*”
      - Our obedience to God allows others to see God’s love!
      - Our lack of obedience eclipses God’s love and prevents others from experiencing His love.
    - ii. This was the problem with the Jews in Romans 2
      - Romans 2:24, “*For, as it is written, ‘The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.’*”
        - The Jews were living corrupt and wicked lives, thus causing the Gentile world to despise their religion and it’s Author: God!
        - When one puts their faith into practice, it causes others to honor that faith and it’s Author!
        - But the reverse causes others to mock, not only that religion, but its Author as well!
        - For this reason, Paul told Timothy to watch his life and doctrine, because by doing so, he will save himself and those who hear him (1Timothy 4:16).
          - a. In other words “practice what you preach!”
    - iii. In light of 1John 2:5a, our godly behavior allows people see the love of God in its fullness – this may draw people to the cross!
      - For this reason, slander, bitterness, mercilessness, sexual immorality, etc. is to be cast aside, because these practices are improper for God’s people (Ephesians 4:21- 5:11)
2. 1John 2:5b-6 (ESV): *(5b) 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.*
- i. Those who know God walk as Jesus walked!
  - ii. **Question: What was Jesus like as a person?**
    - If you have time, here are some characteristics you may want to go over, after everyone has answered:
      - Jesus was compassionate.
        - a. He saw the crowds as souls that were “...*harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd*” (Matthew 9:36 ESV).
        - b. His compassion for them lead Him to heal their diseases (Matthew 14:14; 20:34), and feed their hungry bodies (Matthew 15:32).
      - Jesus was focused!
        - a. He had a mission in life and never got sidetracked from His mission!
      - Jesus was a servant!
        - a. He did not come to be served, but to serve (Mark 10:45).

- Jesus was submissive to God, the Father.
  - a. He knew that He was the propitiation for our sins!
  - b. He prayed on the night of His betrayal, "*My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will*" (Matthew 26:39).
- Jesus was submissive to His earthly parents.
  - a. He grew up with imperfect human parents, yet, He was submissive to them..." (Luke 2:51).
- Jesus was merciful
  - a. "*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do*" (Luke 23:34).
  - b. "*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins...*" (1 John 1:9).
- Jesus had a reputation for being good and caring.
  - a. He went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the Devil (Acts 10:38)
- Jesus was honest and truthful
- Jesus was intimate with His disciples
  - a. He spent quality and quantity time with them.
  - b. He sought their fellowship, taught them, and helped them focus on what was eternal.
  - c. Do you spent time with your disciples, instructing them and setting an example to them as Jesus did with His disciples?
- Jesus was intimate with His Heavenly Father.
  - a. He prayed to Him regularly, listened, obeyed, and cared about God's reputation.
    - i. He was angry at the people who were buying and selling in the temple, He said firmly, "*It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers!*" (Matthew 21:13)
- Jesus was patient
  - a. He knows and understands our frailties.
  - b. He is patient toward us, not wishing for any of us to perish, but for all to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

iii. These are characteristics that all true believers desire to become because a disciple's goal is to be like his Teacher, Jesus (Matthew 10:25).

- The things that drew people to Jesus are the very things that draw people to His true followers.
- Jesus is the Love of God personified!
- Walking as Jesus walked allows men to see, in us, the Love of God in its fullness!