

# That our joy may be complete – 1 John

1 John 2:3-11

“Walking His way” – March 1, 2020



## Introduction

When it comes to knowing where we stand with our Creator, we need more than wishful thinking – we need confidence. Lacking confidence in our relationship with God leads us to live out of insecurity, trying to *earn* God's favor...never sure of what the future holds. But God doesn't want us to live like that – He wants us to know. In fact, that's why 1 John was written (see [1 Jn. 5:13](#)). How then can we know that we really know God? How can we know if the Christianity we profess is genuine or not? John introduces two things to help us grow in our confidence of where we stand with God: *obedience* and *love*.

## Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

## Sermon Outline

- I. Keep God's commandments (2:3-6)
- II. Love like Jesus loved (2:7-11)

## Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [1 John 2:3-6](#)

John is not talking about how we can *become* a Christian. Instead, John's asking, how can a person who is a Christian know? If knowing God unvaryingly leads to obedience, how does this work? In [1 John 4:16](#), John links the idea of *knowing* and *trusting* the God who is love. How does our view of God affect how we live?

Take a moment to reflect...are there areas of your life you're either struggling to obey God's commands or trying to rewrite the command to fit your desires? If so, can you identify the *unbiblical* view of God you're tempted to believe in those moments?

The idea that God's love is *perfected* in us (v5) highlights that God's love will reach its goal – God will accomplish in us what He set out to by His love. The goal of His love is to make us holy – to make us *like* Jesus and bring us into a satisfying relationship with God (see [1 Peter 2:24-25](#)). How can we fight against *wrong* views of God that tempt us to discard God's commandments? What role do other church members (brothers and sisters in Christ) have in God's work of perfecting His love in us?

Additional Reading: Luke 19:11-27

## 2) Read [1 John 2:7-11](#)

After setting up the *moral* test in 2:3-6, John zeroes in on a specific command: the commandment to love. This is the command Jesus gave in John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." As we, with God's help, love as Jesus loved we not only shine in this world as the 'light' (see [Matt. 5:14](#)) we gain confidence in our own self-knowledge that we are children of God. How else could we explain the way we, inherently selfish people, find ourselves increasingly loving?

John defines 'love' and 'hate' not just as emotional terms, but through contrast. Take some time to read [1 John 3:16](#) and [4:10-11](#). What do we learn about Jesus' love from these verses? How does [Philippians 2:3-8](#) help to fill in the details of John's definition of Jesus' love? Knowing how John defines Jesus' love, how are we to define 'hatred' in *this* context? How does growing in our knowledge of, appreciation in, and trust in God's love (as displayed in the gospel of Jesus) help us put hate to death and grow in our love for God and others?

Additional Reading: Mark 10:35-45, John 13:1-20

### **Prayer of Response**

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

<b>*Next week's sermon text:</b> we turn to <b>1 John 2:12-17 "The love of the Father"</b>
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