

The Essentials of Our Faith – Studies In I John #5

Obedience Is The Evidence That We Have Been Transformed By
God's Love In Us
I John 2:3-6

I. How To Be Sure We Know God

- A.** By our actions in relation to what God says
- B.** Not by our words or knowledge
- C.** To separate our beliefs from our actions make our words a lie
- D.** We are then separated from the truth
 - We don't know God
 - Regardless of what we say
- E.** It's just like saying, "We have fellowship, or we are in the light", while we walk in darkness; a lie
- F.** But whoever obeys His word – will, plan or direction, that which is pleasing to Him
- G.** Is giving evidence of knowing God which is love from God and love for God that motivates our obedience – a mature position
- H.** Assurance comes when our life reflects Christ's

II. What John Wants Them To Know

- A.** "I have come to know Him" should be "I have known Him"
 - Which is why we're obeying His command
 - Knowing Him comes first – relationship
 - Then obedience is the evidence
- B.** The truth does not exist
 - Truth implies evidence
 - Words don't
 - You can't say what isn't true
- C.** Mature love (perfected)
 - Love that transforms
 - Love that desires to please
 - The only authentic motivation for Christian behavior
- D.** Abiding

- Vine and branches
- Permanent, deep, relationship

- E.** Walking just as He walked
 - The way Christ is seen in us

III. Thoughts

- A.** Too often when Christians hear this passage our response is to work harder at keeping the commandments
 - Learn the rules – our rules
 - Do them
 - Show that we really "know" God
- B.** However, this passage is saying that the evidence of knowing God is a life that has been transformed by the love of God in a relationship of love.
 - If you love me you will keep my commandments
 - The idea of perfected love
 - I John 4:7-8
- C.** It's not something we learn to do, it's something that happens to us. Our lives are changed! This is how we know.
- D.** And Jesus is seen through us