

1 John 2:5

The test of knowing Him

Review:

Read 1 John 2:3-5

But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 1 John 2:5

But whoever

The one who conscientiously observes His doctrine, the spirit and letter of the religion of Christ. *Adam Clarke Commentary*

Keeps

The Greek Dictionary defines keep as to guard (from loss or injury, by keeping the eye upon, hold fast, keep(-er), preserve, watch. The Web Dictionary defines keep as: to honor or fulfill (a commitment or undertaking). Some of the synonyms of the word keep are: comply with, obey, respect, observe, conform to, abide by, stick to, fulfill, etc. Place any of the above words in the verses below in place of keep and this is what we are to do. The word keep is a verb, a word used to describe an action.

Psa 105:45 That they might observe His statutes and keep His laws. Praise the LORD!

Psa 106:3 Blessed are those who keep justice, and he who does righteousness at all times!

Psa 119:2 Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart!

Psa 119:4 You have commanded us to keep Your precepts diligently.

Prov 8:32 “Now therefore, listen to me, my children, for blessed are those who keep my ways.”

Rev 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

What truths did you discover regarding the word keep?

Something to ponder: Do we keep (honor, obey, respect) His commandments?

The Creator of the universe guides and directs those who listen and obey and keep His commandments. Those who are His will strive to do His will.

His word

Word is referring to what he has spoken or commanded, and includes all that He has made known to us as His will in regard to our conduct.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”

Luke 11:28 But He said, “More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

Truly the love of God

This love is referring to agape love, a love of affection, compassion, generosity, kindness. This type of love is the conscious act of sacrificing one’s own desires, comfort, and even well-being for the sake of another.

One of God’s attributes is, He is love. God’s heart, His very nature is love. It’s impossible to say we love God and not love people. The world says, I love people...I just don’t like them very much. Social distancing? I love the 6 feet rule. Keep people away from me! We too can sometimes feel that way. But, we must be reminded, since His Spirit dwells in us His love will flow through us to others. When we obey His commands, God’s love will cause us to see people as God sees them and love them as God loves them.

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

1 John 4:7-8 “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”**1 John 5:3** For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

1 Pet 4:8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Eph 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Col 3:13-14 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

1 Thess 3:12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you.

1 Cor 16:14 Let all that you do be done with love.

Who are we to love?

How can we share His love with others?

Why does God love us? It is because of who He is...God is love and His grace, God's favor and kindness towards us, is given as a free gift. Love had its perfect expression among men in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Eph 2:4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions, it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast.

Eph 3:19 To know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

2 Thes 2:16-17 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

Why are we to love?

Nothing can separate us from the love of God! He knows each of us individually and loves us personally with a mighty love that has no beginning and no end. Even when our whole life is falling apart all around us as it seems to be in this pandemic, He loves us! Every trial we face in this life is in the hand of God. He controls everything in our lives. Whether we accept this fact or not, it doesn't change who God is. He is the same yesterday, today and forever! He is the Sovereign One. Whatever difficulties we encounter, God reaches out to us with loving open arms welcoming us to His safe embrace. His love for us will never change! We are His forever! Isn't that a great reminder?

I love the words of the hymn, "The Love of God." You all can help me sing it: **The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell. It goes beyond the highest star and reaches to the lowest hell...O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong! It shall forevermore endure: the saints' and angels' song...Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made: were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade: to write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry; nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky.**

No death, virus, or principalities, NOTHING, can separate us from His love! He dwells in us and we are never alone! We can truly count on that our Father loves and provides for us and He never stops!

Rom 8:38-39 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

His love is a godly love, not a worldly, fallen, human love. He loves us because He chose to. It was an act of His will. Jesus did this in the ultimate way when He died for us on the cross. He took the punishment for our sin on Himself. The perfect and sinless Son of God became sin for us and He is risen from the dead! When we turn from sin and trust in Him, we too can be risen from a life of death and awakened to life in Christ! I trust you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

When you reflect upon God's love for you, what are some words that come to mind?

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 4:9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

What does our Lord's love look like?

1 Cor 13:4-8a Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

Eph 5:1-2 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

1 John 3:16a "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us."

What are your thoughts regarding God's love?

When we are overwhelmed by life, we must remember Lord's love for us!

1 John 4:9-10 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Something to ponder: Do we praise Him for His unfailing love towards us?

Is perfected in him

Perfected- Complete, accomplished, finished.

Albert Barnes NT Commentary says: In him verily is the love of God perfected. He professes to have the love of God in his heart, and that love receives its completion or filling up by obedience to the will of God. That obedience is the proper carrying out, or the exponent of the love which exists in the heart. Love to the Saviour would be defective without that, for it is never complete without obedience...if true love exists in the heart, it will be carried out in the life. *Albert Barnes NT Commentary*

John 15:9-11 – “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

1 John 4:12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

Because we have received His salvation and His Holy Spirit, we are able to be obedient and do His will. We have been enabled to walk in the light and have fellowship with Him. Ladies, we are perfected through Him! Praise God! It’s not through anything we have ever done!

1 Pet 1:22-23 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.

Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God--and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

By this we know that we are in Him

To be in him, is to be united to Him by keeping His commandments.

As followers of Christ our life should reflect our Lord. Our character as a believer should resemble God’s character in holiness, righteousness and purity. When we walk in the light we reflect his light to an unenlightening world. *Matthew Poole Commentary*

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

Col 2:9-10 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

2 Cor 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

How can we know we are in Him?

Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

When we are in Christ, we are more than conquerors! We are loved, forgiven, secure, adopted, justified, redeemed, reconciled, chosen, victorious, filled with joy and peace and given an inheritance in Heaven. Remember these truths! Christ is our Prince of Peace and so much more!

We cannot brag about our love for God because we fail Him daily. But we can brag about His love for us because it never fails!

Rom 8:37 In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Something to ponder: Do others see Christ living in me?

Prayer: Lord, thank you for Your Word that leads and directs us. Help us to hear and see Your words clearly! Help us to be obedient to Your will of holiness in our lives. Thank You for your devoted love for us and for sending the Comforter to us. With the help of the Holy Spirit may we be known as women who keep, cherish and protect your Word. Help us Father God to follow the example of Your Son. Keep before our eyes the image of your Son, Who, being God, became a Servant for our sake. Jesus, you are our greatest example. All glory be to Him who lives and reigns with us and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen