

## 1 John 2:3-4

**1 John 2:3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.**

*Ladies, would you say there is a difference between knowing someone and knowing about someone?*

*To really know someone, what steps are taken to know them better?*

### **Now by this we know that we know Him**

“To know God” in the Greek comes from the verb “ginosko” signifies to be taking in knowledge, to come to know and realize Who He is without a doubt, to be sure, and recognize Him!

Jesus said, “Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent” John 17:3.

Exodus 34:5-7 Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.

Isaiah 45:18 For thus says the Lord, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: “I am the Lord, and there is no other.

Psa 91:14 “Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name.

Eccl 3:14 I know that whatever God does, it shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, and nothing taken from it. God does it, that men should fear before Him.

Mat 11:27 All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

1 Cor 2:16 For “Who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

*How can we know our God and Savior more intimately?*

In order to truly know God, we must first receive Him into our lives. That gives us the privilege to be called God’s child. We are then to seek Him with all of our heart. If we truly seek God with all our hearts, we will find Him.

John 1:12 “As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.”

Jeremiah 29:13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Let’s look at what the Bible says about the unbeliever.

Rom 1:21 Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

1 Cor 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned (dead).

Titus 1:15-16 To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

*What do these verses say about the unbeliever?*

***Something to ponder:** Are we teachable? Do we listen and obey the Holy Spirit? Do we claim to know God, but our actions deny Him?*

### **If we keep His commandments**

To keep—To guard; watch over; persevere (persist, endure, continue) in His commandments.

This is the test of knowing Christ, we will keep His commandments. Once we’ve entered into a spiritual relationship with God, we want to do things that honor and delight Him. No one can say they love Him if they don’t keep His commandments. The requirement of love toward our holy God is daily obedience and continual growth toward Christlikeness. We will want to know Him in a continually deepening way.

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.”

John 15:10 “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.”

1 Thess 4:1-2 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

Heb 5:9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.

Rev 22:14 Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

*If we keep His commandments, what are some of the blessings we receive as believers?*

Deut 6:4-5 God gives the greatest commandment: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

John MacArthur states, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy strength” was a whole-souled, whole-hearted, whole-strength devotion to God. It was a consuming single priority, which could be compared with nothing else. There was no sense in which loving God was an option. There was no sense in which obeying God was an option. There was no sense in which worshipping God, serving God was an option. It was a consuming, dominant life priority.

True disciples do the will of God and walk in His light. We are to strive and live a life that resembles Christ. The more yielded we are to Christ, the more He reveals His will to us, He works in us and through us. Our duty is an active participation of being watchful and on guard. Not flawless conformity, but in willing subjection to God’s will. If we say we love Him, we must keep His commands of faith, love, and obedience. For the believer, obedience means complying with everything God has commanded.

Our love fails when we disobey our Lord. Again, this is the test whether we love Him or not...do we keep His commandments?

Mat 19:17 So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”

The great news is no matter how many times our love has failed, there is restoration. The Biblical definition of restoration is to bring back or recover from lapse, degeneracy, decline or moral deterioration, or ruin, to its former state. The Lord restores all men from sin and alienation from God, to a state of salvation, when we confess our sin (1 John 1:9). This comes through the Savior’s love for us. The cross is greatest symbol of God’s love and His love never fails. Isn’t it great truth to know we are fully known and loved by Him? Even though He was the one offended, He bore our sins and failures. The beauty is He is eager for us to come back.

He is so much bigger than our minds can ever comprehend. He has so much to offer us! If all He had to offer us was His love, we would be abundantly blessed, but He gives us so much more! So we continue to press on toward the prize of the upward call. We keep obeying, studying, loving and living lives that are pleasing to Him. Why? Because He loves us! He doesn’t love us with a superficial love I love you today, but not tomorrow, or in the future, but

with an everlasting love – a love that is unlike any love we have ever experienced, a love that keeps giving, an unfailing love!

Jere 31:3 The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.”

2 Thes 2:15-17 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle. 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.

Rom 8:35-37 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Rom 8:39 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.

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.

*Something to ponder: Do we love our Lord? What are the priorities in our life? Is He our first priority? Do we strive to live a life that resembles Christ? Are we yielded and surrendered to His will?*

**1 John 2:4 He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.**

### **He who says “I know Him,” and keeps not His commandments**

Since Christ died for all people because we are all sinners, everyone who says they know Christ without keeping His commandments is basically saying they are not a sinner. They make themselves a liar, because they contradict Christ, who died for them. A Christian who is not obeying Christ’s commands can rightly be asked, “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?” Luke 6:46

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

### **Is a liar**

Liar – A person who knowingly utters falsehood, one who declares another as a fact when he knows it not to be true, and with an intention to deceive him. A falsifier. *King James Dictionary*

John 8:55 Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, ‘I do not know Him,’ I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word.

1 John 5:10 He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

Rev 21:8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

He who is living in the habitual practice of sin, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, in doctrine and practice, faithfully desiring to do His will, in him is the love of God perfected, and by this know we that we are in him; being united to our Lord and Savior, and eternally interested in all the privileges of His gospel, in which the hypocrite has no will or desire to do so. He that says he abides in Him, should himself also walk in Him. *Matthew Henry Concise Commentary*

Our God is absolutely perfect; there is nothing in Him which is in any way imperfect, or anything or anyone who could damage His character. He is characterized by the truth. God can not lie as He is truth. He can not sin as He is Holy. That is Who He is.

*Who is the father of lies?*

Satan is called a “liar” and the “father of lies”, showing us that the opposite of what is true is not holy. Satan's main objective is to blind men’s (women’s) eyes to the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Don’t be caught unprepared, we must be prepared and on guard at all times from the schemes of the evil one. We have an enemy who is lying to us and wanting to destroy our testimony. His truth is fake, phony, bogus...it is counterfeit!

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

1 John 1:22 Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

James 4:7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Eph 1:14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place.

*Something to ponder: Are we known as liars or are we known for following God's commandments? Are we aware and prepared with the armor of God to fight our adversary?*

### **And the truth is not in him**

*Ladies, according to the Bible, what is truth? What truths can we find in the Bible?*

John MacArthur states, truth is that which is consistent with the mind, will, character, glory, and being of God. Truth is the self-expression of God. Truth cannot be adequately explained, recognized, understood, or defined without God as the source. Since He alone is eternal and self-existent and He alone is the Creator of all else, He is the fountain of all truth. God has created and defined, and over which He rules. Truth is therefore a moral issue for every human being. To reject and rebel against the truth of God results in darkness, folly, sin, judgment, and the never-ending wrath of God. To accept and submit to the truth of God is to see clearly, to know with certainty, and to find life everlasting.

*In order to do the truth what is required from us?*

True discipleship is more than intellectual acceptance, those who are “really” followers of Christ will “abide” in His Word. That means they will not only accept His teachings as truth, but they will also obey His teachings. Action is proof of faith.

John 8:31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

1 John 3:18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

*Who is truth?*

God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit are the Authors of truth. God knows all things exhaustively, and so we can trust anything He reveals in Scripture. From Genesis to Revelation His Word is truth! Truth is not defined by our own subjective standards; it is determined by the Source of truth Himself.

Isaiah 45:19 I have not spoken in secret, from somewhere in a land of darkness; I have not said to Jacob's descendants, 'Seek me in vain.' I, the LORD, speak the truth; I declare what is right.

Psalm 33:4-5 For the word of the Lord is right, And all His work is done in truth. He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Psalm 119:151 You are near, O Lord, And all Your commandments are truth.

Psalm 119:160 The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

James 1:18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

True disciples of Jesus believe that He speaks the truth about God and the Scriptures. They also know that He is who He claims to be. The more we know Him, the more we will love Him and vice versa, the more we love Him the more we will know Him. Our love and total obedience is what leads us to be mature believers. True disciples are of the truth and will know the truth. More than that, their eyes are opened to a greater understanding of the truth.

John 7:28 Then Jesus cried out, as He taught in the temple, saying, “You both know Me, and you know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. But I know Him, for I am from Him, and He sent Me.”

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.

1 John 3:19 And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.

1 Timothy 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Jesus makes it clear that He alone is the way to heaven and to a personal knowledge of God: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.” John 14:6 Jesus is the way to truth. Nothing is of greater importance than understanding this truth when it comes to knowing God.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Jesus is the truth and the source of grace and truth.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Not only is His truth within us but we also walk in the truth and we are to be fellow workers for the truth.

3 John 1:3 For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth.

3 John 1:8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth.

The Holy Spirit is truth.

John 14:17 The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

John 15:26 “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.”

John 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

The gospel is truth.

Gal 2:5 To whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

Gal 2:14 But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, “If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?”

The truth makes us free. The truth sanctifies and purifies.

John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

John 17:19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

1 Pet 1:22 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.

***Something to ponder:*** *What are you going to do with this truth?*

As followers of Christ we too are to reflect truth.

Prayer: Lord, You know us all by name and we thank You for being the truth, the way and the life! Teach us Your ways so that we would know You and continue to find favor with You. Help us to be obedient to You and Your Word that gives us life! May we be faithful witnesses of Your truth. Help us to never forget You are the One in authority! Lord, we ask that You would help us to live in the truth faithfully until the end! Thank you for Your unfailing love! Amen

*1 John 2:21 I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth.*