

Study #3
Assurance of Faith
1 John 2:3-11

Review - The Theological Test

1. Who is John's audience?

2. What are the ideas of the culture that are influencing the readers of John's letter?

3. How has John refuted false claims about Christ in Chapter 1?

Today's Study – Obedience, the Moral Test (2:3-6)

Read the following passage

***3**And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. **4**Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, **5**but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. 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.*

1. Who is 'him' in verse 3?

2. In verse 3 John says, “By this” we can know that we have a relationship with Christ. What is ‘this?’ (Vs. 3)

3. What are Christ’s commandments?

4. What does verse 4 say about someone who doesn’t keep the commandments of Christ?

5. Verse 6 says that if we abide in Christ, we ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. A good parallel passage comes from John 15 where Christ gave the illustration of abiding in the vine. Read the passage and then answer the questions.

*John 15:4-5, 10 **4**Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. **5**I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

***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.*

What does the word abide mean?

What does walking the same way he walked mean?

Love - The Social Test (2:7-11)

***7**Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. **8**At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because^a the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. **9**Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. **10**Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him^b there is no cause for stumbling. **11**But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*

1. In verse 7 John states that he is giving them a commandment that they have had since the beginning. The beginning of what?

2. What is the old commandment? (Vs. 10)

3. John says in verse 8 that the same old commandment is also a new commandment. What is the new commandment? (Vs.10)

4. Who does John say is still walking in darkness? (Vs.9)

5. Who does John say is walking and abiding in the light? (Vs.10)**6. A favorite passage and a good reminder of what love looks like comes from Corinthians 13 and Galatians 5:22-23. Read the following passage and then answer the question.**

1 Cor 13:1-13 *The Way of Love - 1If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned,^a but have not love, I gain nothing.*

4Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;^b 6it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. 9For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 11When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. 12For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

13So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Galatians 5:22-23 *Fruit of the spirit - 22But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

According to these passages from Paul, what does loving others look like in the Christians life?

7. If the opposite is true of the Non-Christian then what does hating others look like based on the previous two passages you just read (1 Cor 13, Galatians 5)

Teaching Notes

Obedience, or the moral test (Vs. 3-6)

(Vs. 3) And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.

1. The test _____.

(Vs. 4-5) Whoever says, "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him.

2. The test _____.

(Vs. 6) whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

3. The test _____.

Love, or the social test (Vs. 7-11)

(Vs. 7) Beloved I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard.

1. Love as an _____ commandment.

(Vs. 8) At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

2. Love as a _____ commandment.

(Vs. 9-11) Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

3. Love as a _____ and a _____ of life.

Application Questions

A scribe once asked Christ in Mark 12:28, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" And Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

How are you loving God? What does loving God look like in your life?

What does loving others look like in your life? Are you loving your enemy's and the unsaved people God has put in your life? Are you loving your brothers and sisters in Christ?

