

Evidence of Knowing God

1 John 2:3-11

I. Introduction:

A. Knowing God

- *There are three key components involved in knowing God.*

1. – Revelation

a. Knowing God begins with revelation. Man lacks capacity to know God unless He reveals Himself to us. Man cannot discover and figure out God on his own.

b. God has revealed Himself to man in the following ways:

(1) General Revelation: - Creation, - Beauty, - Life, & - Love

(2) Special Revelation: - Prophecy, - Miracles, - Resurrection of Jesus
- The Bible, & - The Holy Spirit

c. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is a special revelation & is God's power unto salvation.

d. One knows God through faith in Jesus because God loved 1st & revealed Himself

2. – Intellect

a. After we're saved, we grow in our knowledge of God through the study of His word.

b. We aren't saved by intellect or knowledge. We learn more about God after salvation

c. The saving knowledge of God is then enhanced with life-long learning.

3. – Emotions

a. The more we learn about God, closer we're drawn to Him, & more we'll love Him.

b. The more we love & surrender to God, more our emotions will be stirred by the truth

c. Emotional worship is natural as those saved have an increasing knowledge of God.

d. Warning: A saving knowledge of God doesn't begin with intellect or with emotion.

e. Intellectual knowledge & emotions follow divine revelation whereby we believe by grace through faith unto salvation.

II. Evidence of knowing God (1 John 2:3-6)

A. Keep His commandments.

1. 1st evidence of a genuine saving relationship with God is keeping His commandments.

2. Positive proof person knows God is seen in a genuine desire to obey Him. (**1 John 2:3**)

3. Outward evidence of being saved is obedience to God. To know God is to obey God.

4. Important: We do not obey God to be saved, we obey God because we are saved.

5. We obey God because we love Him and desire to do His commands.

6. This obedience comes from inner transformation, not outward pressure & conformity.

B. Evidence of hypocrisy

1. If person claims to know God & doesn't keep His commands there's problem, John said (**1 John 2:4**) 1 claiming salvation, yet lives in habitual disobedience to God's a liar.

2. John said the truth is not in the person who would make such a claim.

3. Person claiming salvation & lives in rebellion against God's law is blinded to the truth.

4. That person has no concept of knowing God and having a relationship with Him.

5. Dishonest & blind is the person who claims to know God & does not seek to obey Him.

C. Obedience is connected to love.

1. Another aspect of knowing God is to love God. **(1 John 1:5)**
2. Not only does obedience show genuinely knowledge of God, it's outward showing that we love God. To have the love of God "**perfected in us**" is to have it complete.
3. The word is *teleioo* which can also means mature.
4. Our desire to obey Jesus is evidence of the love of God being matured in our lives.
5. Application: One can't say they love Jesus & then live in open & unrepentant sin.

D. Abiding and walking

1. 2nd evidence of genuine knowledge of God is walking in this life like Jesus. **(1 Jn 1:6)**
2. To abide in Christ means a permanent, habitual condition.
3. An overwhelming evidence of knowing Jesus, of being genuinely saved, is a life that is constantly being conformed to the image of Jesus.

E. Summary of this section:**1. – Intellect**

- a. Intellectual understanding, knowing God, is part of salvation but alone doesn't save.
- b. In fact, we are to study to show ourselves approved, a workman who is not ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth **(2 Timothy 2:15)**.
- c. We know God by grace through faith in Jesus alone.

2. – Emotion

- a. Emotion & passion are parts of being saved & knowing God, but emotional experience alone won't save a person. Knowing God, we're saved through faith in Jesus alone.
- b. More one knows God, the more emotional they become about God's blessings.

3. – To know God is to obey God.

- a. This doesn't mean we're perfect in this life. It means our habit is obedience to Jesus.
- b. Disobedience is exception. We confess sin immediately & pursue obedience, renewed

4. – To know God is to abide in Him.

- a. To be saved is to abide in Christ all the time. It's a perpetual state of transition into Christ image. To be saved is to be in process of sanctification all the time.

F. Measure your life.

1. This is where we take inventory of our lives and see where we stand.
2. Do we know Jesus, have we been saved by faith in Him?
3. Does our life demonstrate a genuine knowledge of Jesus through obedience?

III. Old and New Command (1 John 2:7-11)**A. Love & Hate**

1. The third evidence that we truly know God is love.
2. To love others is both an old commandment and a new commandment.
3. Old: The command to love is found in the books of the Mosaic law. **(Leviticus 19:18)**
4. The moral of God's law from beginning was for us to love our neighbor as ourselves.
5. New: We are now to love others as Jesus has loved us.
6. Hanging on the cross Jesus loved & prayed for men who were killing Him **(Lk 23:34)**
7. We are called to love others in the same way. **(Matthew 5:43-44)**
8. Evidence: The evidence we know God is seen in how we love others.

B. Light and Darkness

1. Jesus is the light of the world. Those who love like Jesus are walking in the light.
2. Those who hate and harbor unforgiveness in their hearts demonstrate they do not know God. Those who hate are walking in darkness.