

# Obedience Test

## 1 John 2:3-6

### Introduction

Last time we were in 1 John (about 3 weeks ago) we talked about assurance...how do we know that we know? John states that assurance is evidenced by obedience. This eases our minds and quiets our spirit because we can definitely say that our assurance is not based on our experience or feelings—because we know that our feelings/experiences deceive us (Jeremiah 17:9). Paul had an encounter with the living Saviour, but he did not make that an issue in his gospel proclamation or even his reliance as an assurance. Even Peter, with his experience with the Saviour on the mountain when He was transfigured, stated that the Scripture, full of His promises, is the most reliable and the only source of our assurance. What that means is that whatever God commands us to do, we are to obey, and how we obey is the key to how we can know that we know. Thus today we will look at what John writes about our assurance...through our obedience to Christ's commandments.

### I. Obedience Test (3)

- Keep
  - Guarding, watching, observant with reverence
  - Respecting the commandments—wanting to obey
- Commandments
  - Christ's commandments—also includes the whole of Scripture
  - **Matthew 28:20**
- Not talking about legal obedience
  - If you want God's grace—obey
  - If you want to be justified—obey
- Gracious obedience
  - God does not expect perfect obedience, but to keep His commandments to His satisfaction
  - New covenant—we want to obey because of love
- **Do you obey God's Word?**

### II. Identity of the Obedience Test (4, 5)

- What is our pattern of everyday living? What is our practice?
- Person who does not keep His commandments
  - Liar
    - Truth is not in him—no part of God is in him
    - Person has no desire to follow God's truth
    - Shows in action and attitude
  - *Note:* Which means that the person has no desire to do anything that pleases God. He hates God and is in church to prove himself.
  - **James 2:14-20** (esp 16)
  - **Titus 1:10-16**
  - **John 14:24**
- Person who keeps His word
  - Motivated by love for God
  - It is perfected—mature
  - **1 John 4:19**—starts with God loving us

- **Psalm 116:12**—what shall I owe the Lord for everything He has done for me
- **John 14:15, 21, 23**
- **John 15:10**
- *Note:* loving Jesus = obeying His commandments...this will show consistently in our daily walk

### III. Application of the Obedience Test (6)

- Abide in Him—if you say that you abide in Him
  - **John 15**—branches...drawing life from Him
- Walk like Christ
  - **John 6:38**
  - **8:29**
  - **10:18**—commandment I have received from My Father
  - **14:31**
  - *Note:* Pattern is loving obedience to the Father...which we are to imitate Christ!
- Live Christ like!

### Conclusion

I am always concerned to be living the Christian life as fully as I can and to be well-pleasing in His sight.