

## 1 John 2:3-11 Walking in Obedience

In this passage John ceases to describe who Jesus is and starts to give attention to whether we know him. To “know” Jesus was very significant language because the heresy that John was fighting probably claimed to have a secret way to really “know” God. They claimed things like a special knowledge of God gained from a mystical vision. John now writes asking how is it that we can really know him.

1. Have you ever heard anyone say they knew what God wanted because he had spoken to them or given them a vision? Where they right or wrong? How did you decide?
  2. Does God ever speak to people in this way? How can we test such situations?
  3. There are many sects with different ideas today about how to know God. Jehovah’s Witnesses claim you need to join them to know him. Mormon’s claim their founder Joseph Smith had special visions through a special pair of spectacles. How can we be sure these are not sound ideas?
  4. In verse 4 John tells us the first genuine sign of knowing Jesus is that we obey him. Our culture in Australia is a little anti-authority. How do you personally feel about the emphasis on obedience here?
  5. Verse 5 links our obedience to Jesus and his teaching with our showing his love. How can these two be linked? In what way does love follow obedience to Christ?
  6. Verse 6 says “Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.” So we should take time to seriously think this through. What does it mean to walk as Jesus did. How has this called for changed actions or behaviour in your place of work? Try and be very specific.
  7. Verses 7-8 are deliberately contradictory. Its old but its new. What was old and how is it new?
  8. Love and obedience blur together in verses 9-11 in such a way that you can’t tell them apart. To obey Jesus is to love. To love is to walk as Jesus did (obey). Take some time in your group to talk about someone who is difficult to love. How can we ensure our response to their behaviour is not one of darkness?
- If there is a specific issue that is difficult with this person look at Matthew 18:15-17.
9. Is it possible to be loving to someone that we don’t like? Who is hurt if we don’t act lovingly?
  10. Pray for each other that we might obey and walk in the way Jesus walked.