

**Message #5****I John 2:3-6**

You cannot possibly have intimate fellowship with someone you don't even know for sure that you know. When you read I John, you will notice that a word continually shows up over and over again—the word “know.” There are two main verbs that are translated “to know” throughout this book:

- 1) Oida—which speaks of knowledge grasped directly or intuitively by the mind;
- 2) Ginosko—which speaks of knowledge gained indirectly through experience or instruction.

Oida occurs some 15 times in I John, whereas Ginosko occurs some 25 times in I John.

**FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD DEMANDS THAT WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE COME TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST AND WE MAY ONLY COME TO THIS REALIZATION THROUGH OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD.**

Now there are certain observations we want to make before we journey through this passage:

- 1) This passage has nothing to do with a believer's security, but with a believer's assurance.
- 2) The commandments being referred to are not the O.T. legal commandments for Israel or for the unsaved; but N.T. family commandments for having fellowship with God and others.
  - A. Gal. 6:2 - When we bear another's burdens, we fulfill the law of Christ.
  - B. I Thess. 4:2 - Paul refers to new commandments which came through Jesus Christ in the Grace Age, which include 22 commandments in the fifth and last chapter of Thessalonians (i.e. rejoicing always, praying without ceasing, not quenching the Spirit).

In order to have fellowship with God, we must come to the point where we know with certainty that we know God.

**INDEPENDENT IDEA #1** – There is a tangible way to come to the continual conclusion that you know God. **2:3**

The verb that is used for “know” in this verse is “ginosko,” which refers to knowledge that we come to learn by experience and instruction. You are not born with this knowledge that you know God; you must come to learn this fact.

The verb tenses are important. The first verb “know” is present tense, meaning that fellowship with God demands a continual knowledge that we know God. The second verb “know” is perfect tense, meaning that fellowship with God demands that we realize this happened at some point in the past and exists in the present and will continue to exist in the future.

Now there is a simple “means” by which we will know this—“obedience.” Obedience is not perfection; what it is is a continual consistency of keeping the Word of God.

The verb “keep” is one that means to watch over, guard, give heed and observe. So, one who obeys is one that continually protects the Word of God and guards its teachings in one’s own life.

**INDEPENDENT IDEA #2** – There is a tangible way of coming to the conclusion that one does not have continual fellowship with God. **2:4**

Learn an extremely important point—just because one says he knows God or says he has fellowship with God does not make it reality.

There are intellectual and spiritual deceivers who will “say” continually (present tense) that they are right with God, when, in fact, they are not. When God’s specific Word says something that challenges them, they will not obey it and they do not have fellowship with God. There are two realities: 1) He is a liar; 2) The truth is not in him.

**INDEPENDENT IDEA #3** – There are tangible results of having real, continual fellowship with God. **2:5**

**(Result #1)** - God’s love will be matured in this person. **2:5a**

In the original the love is articular, meaning God’s specific kind of love. It will not be the majority of people who will understand and reflect God’s specific kind of love; it will be one who enters into deep fellowship with God through a careful guarding and applying God’s Word to one’s life.

**(Result #2)** - God’s assurance will be known by this person. **2:5b**

Not only will this person grasp and demonstrate the true love of God, but this one will have an assurance that we are in Christ.

**INDEPENDENT IDEA #4** – The one who says he has fellowship with God ought to live like he does have fellowship with God. **2:6**

Do you know today with absolute certainty that you have fellowship with God? Do you know that you are right with God? One simple question—do you purpose to obey the Word of God?

## **I. Grace Age Commandments as They Relate to God**

### **A. Positive Commandments**

1. Trust God – John 14:1
2. Love God and seek to know God – I John 5:2; Phil. 3:10, 15
3. Be thankful to God; worship God and praise God – John 4:23; Col. 3:15
4. Serve God – Rom. 12:6-8, 11; I Cor. 15:58
5. Pray to God – Rom. 12:12; Eph. 6:18; Phil. 4:6; Col. 4:2; I Tim. 2:2
6. Live according to God's will – Rom. 12:1
7. Walk yielded to the Holy Spirit and not O.T. law – Gal. 5:16, 25; Eph. 5:18
8. Hold fast to sound doctrine and contend for the faith – II Tim. 1:13; Jude 3
9. Witness for Jesus Christ – John 15:27; I Pet. 3:15
10. Do everything as unto God – I Cor. 10:31; Eph. 6:7-8; Col. 3:17, 23-24
11. Be diligent in devotion to and the study of God's Word – John 5:39; Col. 3:16; II Tim. 2:15; I Pet. 2:2
12. Be faithful in attending church services – Heb. 10:25

### **B. Negative Commandments**

1. Do not have any idols – I Cor. 10:7, 14; Eph. 5:3; Phil. 3:19; Col. 3:5; I John 5:21
2. Do not receive false teachers – II John 10
3. Do not mock or speak against God – Gal. 6:7; Col. 3:8

## **II. Grace Age Commandments as They Relate to Other Human Beings**

### **A. Positive Commandments**

1. Love others, especially our brothers – John 15:17; Rom. 12:10; I Cor. 16:14; I John 3:2
2. Be sympathetic and compassionate – Eph. 4:32; Phil. 2:4; Col. 3:12
3. Forgive and forebear others – Rom. 12:19; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13
4. Deal honestly and fairly with others – Rom. 12:17b; 13:7; 13:13; I Thess. 4:12
5. Do good to all and help all – Rom. 12:13; Gal. 6:2, 10; I Thess. 5:15; Titus 3:1
6. Tell the truth – Eph. 4:25
7. Be courteous and live peaceably with all – Rom. 12:18; I Pet. 2:17; 3:8
8. Treat others as you would like them to treat you – Rom. 12:17a
9. Provide a good example for others – I Cor. 8:9, 13; Phil. 2:15
10. Urge godly works and seek to challenge and restore those who are backslidden  
Gal. 6:1

### **B. Negative Commandments**

1. Do not lie or bear false witness – Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9; Titus 2:3
2. Do not steal – Eph. 4:28; I Pet. 4:15
3. Do not murder – I Pet. 4:15
4. Do not commit adultery or sexual immorality – I Cor. 6:18; I Thess. 4:13
5. Do not judge others in regard to gray areas – Rom. 14:13
6. Do not speak evil of others or malign them – Titus 3:2
7. Do not be unequally yoked with an unbeliever – II Cor. 6:14

8. Do not have fellowship with professing Christians who are living scandalous lives  
I Cor. 5:11; II Thess. 3:14
9. Do not get involved in lawsuits against other Christians – I Cor. 6:1
10. Do not glory in men – I Cor. 3:21
11. Do not associate with troublemakers and those who want to argue about senseless things – Rom. 16:17; II Tim. 2:23; Titus 3:12
12. Do not have unpaid debts; pay bills on time – Rom. 13:8

### **III. Grace Age Commandments as They Relate to You**

#### **A. Positive Commandments**

1. Be holy – I Pet. 1:15; 2:11; II Pet. 3:1
2. Devote yourself to that which is good and do good things – Rom. 12:9; I Thess. 5:15
3. Study God's Word and think and meditate on it – I Thess. 4:11; II Tim. 2:15
4. Grow spiritually by learning and responding to God's Word – II Pet. 3:18
5. Think about good things, not evil things – Phil. 4:8
6. Think accurately about yourself, not more highly than you ought – Rom. 12:3
7. Be ambitious in a right way and in right pursuits – I Cor. 12:31; 14:1; II Cor. 5:4
8. Be content with what God gives you – Heb. 13:5
9. Rejoice in the Lord; think joyful things about Him – Rom. 12:12; Phil. 3:1; 4:4;  
I Thess. 5:16
10. Live life in view of facing the Judgment Seat of Jesus Christ – I Cor. 9:24
11. Judge yourself and confess sins to God immediately – I Cor. 11:31; I John 1:9;  
II Cor. 13:5
12. Conduct yourself in a good, positive way for outsiders to see – Col. 4:5
13. Develop your mind on the grace of God and in the deep things of God – I Pet. 1:13
14. Do your work well and consider your job as a place of provision and ministry  
Eph. 4:28; II Thess. 3:12
15. Keep your body involved in clean things, using it for God – I Cor. 6:15, 19, 20; 10:31;  
Rom. 12:1
16. Be faithful in attending church and fellowshiping with God's people – Heb. 10:25

#### **B. Negative Commandments**

1. Hate anything that is evil and avoid it – Rom. 12:9; I Thess. 5:22
2. Be humble and not proud and arrogant – Rom. 12:3; I Pet. 5:6
3. Do not conform yourself to the world's ways or views – Rom. 12:2; I John 2:15
4. Do not fellowship with evil – Eph. 5:11
5. Do not sin through anger – Eph. 4:26
6. Do not constantly worry – Phil. 4:6; I Pet. 5:7; John 14:1, 27
7. Do not be lazy or undisciplined – Rom. 12:1; II Thess. 3:11-12
8. Do not use filthy speech – Eph. 4:29; 5:4
9. Do not become drunk – Eph. 5:18
10. Do not constantly complain – I Cor. 10:10; Phil. 2:14