

1 John 2:3-6

³ Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. ⁶ He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. *NKJV*

What is your surety? How can you be so sure about your salvation in Christ Jesus? John puts it forward in simple terms. The idea of "keeping" something, especially "commandments" has the picture of "keeping an eye on" or "guarding like a fortress." The key to having such a loyalty to commandments lies not in self-driven motivation or pure determination. The key to holding onto the commandments of God is found in the love of God holding us close to Him in this precious and transforming relationship.

We are not completing the love of God when we obey His commands, as if His love is incomplete without our cooperation. The love of God at work in our lives leads to His transforming work within our hearts. God's love works in us and through us to fulfill His own commands to us to the extent that we are changed to become more like His Son.

God's love is complete just as His commands are Truth. God does not command us to obey Him and leave us exhausted and frustrated in our failing attempts to obey His commands. His love works in us a great work of change so that obeying His commands is an act of our love and not an act of begrudging duty.

When a person claims to have a relationship with God, yet his behavior and conduct deny both the love *from* God and his professed love *for* God, then John says you can know that he is truly a liar. **No one involved in a relationship built on love consistently refuses to demonstrate fidelity and service.**

Jesus Christ is that One Who "walked" perfectly, expressing His love for God by obeying His commands. Christ obeyed God's commands perfectly. Therefore, those who say they are of Christ also seek to obey the commands of God to the end that they conduct their lives as Christ conducted Himself. This is a high standard for behavior! And that is exactly John's point. No one can fulfill the commands of God without first abiding in His love. **No one can stand the pressure of conforming to such a high and holy standard unless he has experienced the life-transforming power of adoption into the family of God.** John has just told us about the very privileged position that we obtain when we place our faith in Jesus Christ.

To "walk" according to the commandments of God literally means "to tread around." Every step, every action, every thought is to be in submission to the loving gracious ways of God. Every decision we make is meant to be a love-inspired moment reflecting the love of God that is within us. This is how Christ walked among us. This, then, is how we are to walk as we are now children of the Heavenly Father.

Life Application Questions on Reverse Side-----

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 1. What is the key to obeying the commandments of God?**
- 2. How is our obedience to God's commands not completing His love?**
- 3. What is the purpose of the love of God in us?**
- 4. Can someone say they love God, consistently deny His commands and have surety that they are God's child?**
- 5. How is obedience to God's commands a demonstration of love?**
- 6. What kind of "pressure" is felt by the individual who looks upon God's commands and seeks to obey them and yet has never received the love of God through placing their faith in Jesus Christ's work to accomplish obedience on their behalf?**
- 7. How can a person's life (made up by decisions, thoughts, actions, etc...) demonstrate his love for God?**
- 8. Have you been changed by the love of God? How are you being changed by it?**