

FIRST JOHN 2:3–11

“To know God was not merely to know Him as the philosopher knows Him; it was to know Him as a friend knows Him.”

William Barclay

Big Point: We are confident that we know God if we live with the desire to obey what God commands, specifically what Jesus commanded.

Moving from saving knowledge to experiential knowledge of God

1. This test is not a proof-text to set your mind at ease that you are saved
 - a. Saving knowledge of God is *believing* in Jesus
 - b. It could produce self-righteous striving “to obey”
 - i. 2 Sam. 22; Ps. 18:20-27
2. This test is evidence that you are saved
 - a. Saving knowledge of God *produces* a desire “to obey”
 - b. Love of God is made complete by Word of God IN the Christian (Jn. 15:10)
3. Among the commands of Jesus
 - a. Follow me (Jn 1:43)
 - b. Abide in me (Jn. 15:1-8)
 - c. Listen to me, believe in me (Jn. 5:24)
 - d. Continue in my word (Jn. 8:31)
 - e. Call me Lord (Jn. 13:13)
 - f. Ask in my name (Jn. 14:14)
 - g. Remain in my love (Jn. 15:9)

The Old Command Becomes New

Ancient command of the Creator God

The command of God, which we rightly understand now to be his life-giving and sustaining word, is the same one from the very beginning. Remember, in addressing this letter to “Fathers” in the succeeding verses (2:12-14), John indicates one mark of maturity in the faith is coming to know that Jesus is the “one who is from the beginning.”

Becomes new by Jesus fulfilling the law and prophets

Jesus did not come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it. All of the law and the prophets set forth *trajectories* that pointed to Jesus.

Functions of the Law

Ceremonial Laws: Passover, Prophets, Priests, Kings

Moral Laws: Truth, peace, justice, goodness

Now, because of Jesus, it is finally possible to actually accomplish these functions of the law, to walk as Jesus walked with God.

Command is to be Love

The Command is to be and to reflect the love of God in the world, symbolized as a light that is already shining, but grows brighter as we do it. It was the very first command God gave to Adam (Gen. 1:28). In light of human history and sin, this same command now promotes reconciliation; to God and to others.

Be kind | Speak truth | Forgive

1 John 2:3-11 Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

God's Commands

³ This is how we know that we know him: if we keep his commands. ⁴ The one who says, "I have come to know him," and yet doesn't keep his commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps his word, truly in him the love of God is made complete. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶ The one who says he remains in him should walk just as he walked.

⁷ Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old command that you have had from the beginning. The old command is the word you have heard. ⁸ Yet I am writing you a new command, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. ⁹ The one who says he is in the light but hates his brother or sister is in the darkness until now.

¹⁰ The one who loves his brother or sister remains in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. ¹¹ But the one who hates his brother or sister is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and doesn't know where he's going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.