

**Scripture Reference:** 1 John 2:3-29

**Date:** May 11, 2014

**Title:** "Knowing Him"

**Focus:** Submission to God proves love for Him (John Series 2 of 7)

In chapter 1, John wrote about the new character of life offered by God and witnessed in Jesus. What he referred to as *Eternal Life* (v. 2). He defined this new life, "God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all" (v. 5).

In this chapter he explains there is evidence when a person possesses this manner of life. It is the presence of love.

Love is the indicator of whether a person knows God.

## **1 John 2:3-6; Obedience is the Manifestation of Love**

Humanity uses the word *love* in broad and often self-serving ways.

On the other hand, when God uses it, it is other-directed.

John 3:16; "*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*"

Paul, addressing a group of believers who were self-obsessed, wrote,

1 Cor. 13:5; “[Love] does not seek its own.”

Jesus Himself declared,

John 14:31; “So that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me.”

Jesus declared that the presence of love characterized in obedience would be the identifying factor of those who live in relationship with God.

John 13:24-25; “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

If people love God, they obey God. If they do not obey God, they don’t love Him, no matter what they say (v. 4).

It is only by obedience God’s love can be fully manifested (v. 5). Why? Because we want to love and live on our terms. If we obey God, we love and live on His

## **2:7-14; There is Nothing New in what John is Saying**

Love for God has always been demonstrated by obedience. i.e.: Adam and Eve, Abraham and Isaac

What is new now is the level to which it is taken in Jesus. Before Christ, obedience was demonstrated through The Law.

Now, because of God's indwelling presence and a relationship with Him, disciples “abide in the Light” (v. 10) of God’s nature and knows Him and this truth from *personal inner* experience.

John presents this to the congregation on many age levels (vv. 12-14), “little children, fathers, and young men.” He talks to them about their experiences with God. In doing so, he tells them this truth applies to all people, not merely the mature.

There is no exceptions or exclusions to obedience being the path to love for God and the love of God being perfected in a person

## **2:15-24; The Affections of the Heart Direct One's Allegiance.**

John warns his readers about something that competes for love for God. It is love for ourselves.

He tells them not to love what their natural appetites prefer. For the “lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life (v. 16), does not emanate from God. It comes from one’s self.

Devotion to one's own natural desires and the values of the world cancels out the love of God being active and evident in a person's life.

A person can only love one. It will be either himself or God.

Matt. 6:24; "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

John encourages them to let this truth abide in them (v. 20-24). Because he knows that wherever one treasures, that will have their devotion.

Matt 6:21; "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

## **2:26-29; Don't Be Deceived on This.**

In John's day, as in ours, there are people challenging submission to another as a testament of love.

They say it is wrong to lose yourself in another or to give yourself so completely to that person. While this can be true of another person, it is not true with respect to God.

John warns them not to listen to this. But, instead, to heed the testimony of God's Spirit within.

v. 27; *"The anointing which you received from Him [God] abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him."*

## The Last 18 Inches

In our preference for ourselves, there is no room to love God. If our interest is in others, before God, there is no space for obedience in your life.

It is not possible to “*love the YHWH your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind*” (Matt. 22:37) and not abandon yourself to Him.

So, do you love God? Before you answer, ask yourself, “Do I do whatever He calls me to do? Or, am I selective about what I hear and obey? Do I respond to the One who loves me?”

In my answer to this question is my declaration of love either made or withheld.