

# THE OBEDIENCE TEST

*Do You Know God? (Four Questions)*

1 John 2:1-11

# The last living apostle

“My little children”..

- John writes out of tender affection
- Viewpoint of apostles as eyewitnesses
- To enjoy Fellowship with God
  - God is light
  - If we walk in the light
  - His blood cleanses us

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# 1 Am I Striving to Avoid Sin?

1 John 2:1-2 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.<sup>2</sup> And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

- God requires we strive to serve Him perfectly
- But God DOES NOT require us to be perfect

## 2 Am I Keeping God's Commandments?

1 John 2:3-4 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. <sup>4</sup> He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

- If you want to know God, keep His commandments
- Claiming to know Him must match our actions

### 3 Am I walking like Christ?

1 John 2:7-8 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

<sup>6</sup> He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

— Loving God means keeping His word

— If we claim to be in Christ, we need to walk as He walked

## **4 Am I practicing the command He lived by?**

1 John 2:7-8 Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning.<sup>8</sup> Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. God speaks/communicates through His word

- An old commandment (but truly lived out by Christ)
- Simple test: Do we hate our brother/or truly love?

# Darkness or Light?

1 John 2:9-11 He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. <sup>10</sup> He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. <sup>11</sup> But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

# John says it's very simple..

2:4 The one who says I know Him.. and does not keep His commands is a liar

2:6 The one who says I abide in Him.. Ought to walk as he walked

2:9 The one who says I am in the light.. and hates his brother is still in darkness

— Obedience is a test of relationship with God

— Jesus is the standard of obedience

— Love is the command to obey



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