



5/19/26

1 John 2:1-11

I am so grateful to have a God who meets me where I am, no matter where I am. If I'm happy, He celebrates with me. If I'm afraid, He reassures me. If I'm anxious, He gives me His peace. If I'm hurting, He comforts me. If I'm suffering, He strengthens me. If I'm sinning, He disciplines me AND forgives me. I NEED to be secure in all of who He is, and then I can be free to love others. The source of my love is the Lord. Trying to love others authentically and sacrificially is exhausting and impossible if it doesn't come from the Lord. It's like trying to turn on a light without plugging it in. O Lord, please help me to come to You as my source for EVERYTHING I need. You promise to BE everything I need.

Vs. 1-2 ~ "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."

At the end of chapter 1, John told me that if I say I'm without sin, the truth is not in me, I'm a liar, I'm deceived, the word is not in me, and I make God a liar! Yikes! But God is faithful and just to forgive me and cleanse me from all unrighteousness when I confess my sin to Him. There is so much freedom in admitting my sin to Him and turning from it!

My flesh wants me to say, "Well, if God forgives me for my sin, why not just keep on sinning and say that I know He'll forgive me?" But John says he's writing this letter, not so that I'll justify my sin, but so that I'll choose not to sin. The sin I commit is not to be the path I walk, but more like tripping into a puddle where I realize that it was not good and I cry to God for help. When I sin, as God knows I will, Jesus is my advocate. He is the replacement payment for the punishment I deserve. He paid for ALL sin! The sin of the whole world! His death covered all sin, but only those who receive His gift of mercy are saved. I can buy all the gifts in the world for someone, but if they refuse to accept the gift, it never actually becomes theirs.

Vs. 3-5a ~ "And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. Whoever says, 'I know Him' but does not keep His commandments is a liar, and

the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps His word, in him truly the love of God is perfected."

To truly know the Lord, not just know about Him but know Him, is to obey Him. To know Him is to recognize Him as the one with all authority and to bow to Him. It is to say and live, "I serve at the pleasure of my King. Jesus is my King."

If I say that I know Him but don't obey Him, what I'm really saying is, "I know ABOUT Him." But I don't know Him. I remember a friend at a retreat we were part of when our kids were young asking the question to everyone, "How many of you know Michael Jordan?" The Bulls were doing quite well at the time. Everyone raised their hands. Then he said, "You know ABOUT Michael Jordan, but do you KNOW him? Could you show up at his house without invitation and have him welcome you in for lunch?" Of course, none of us could. He said, "In the same way, we need to KNOW the Lord, not just ABOUT Him." The evidence of my relationship with the Lord will be seen in my obedience to Him. I praise Him that He doesn't expect perfection, but I do need to pursue Him with a surrendered heart.

When I genuinely seek to keep and guard the word of the Lord in my attitudes and actions, His love is PERFECTED in me. His LOVE in me becomes the motivation of my heart. His LOVE... affectionate, tender, sacrificial, surrendered love flowing in me and through me.

When I'm living in my own strength, Jeremiah 17:9 defines my heart as deceitful and desperately sick. But when I'm living in obedience to the Lord, totally secure in His mercy and grace, my heart is defined by authentic love. O Lord, please perfect Your love in me!!!

Vs. 5b-6 ~ "By this we may know that we are in Him: whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked."

To know Him is to obey Him. To obey Him is to walk like Jesus walked. How did Jesus walk? 1 Peter 2:21-23 says, "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth. When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly."

So... to walk like Jesus is to follow in His steps, not choosing to sin, not speaking lies, not retaliating against others, not threatening others, and entrusting myself to the Father. I always find it very enlightening that my obedience to the Lord is very closely tied to how I treat others. The bottom line is Jesus walked in love, because Jesus IS love. He calls me to do the same.

Vs. 7-8 ~ "Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining."

*So... John uses a lot of words to NOT tell me what the old and new commandment is!!!
Whatever it is, it's true... genuine... in Him and in me. AND whatever it is, it's revealed by the
light. This commandment cannot be obeyed, and it cannot be genuine in the dark. It can only be
revealed by living in the light of Jesus. So what is this old and new commandment???*

*Vs. 9-11 ~ The commandment is to LOVE. "Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother
is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause
for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and
does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes."*

*Darkness breeds hatred. The commandment is to walk in His light and love. Walking in the
hatred of darkness causes blindness and stumbling. Nothing good. It's deceptive. It promises
power, but it destroys.*

*The true light breeds love. Walking in the love of God and letting His love pour in me and
through me to others will never cause me to stumble. Nothing God calls me to do will ever cause
stumbling. There is no deception in what God has for me.*

*As I look back on all the stumbling I've done in the darkness when I tripped into the puddles of
sin because I believed lies about what I deserved or what I was entitled to, I just see so much
deception of my heart!!! I thought I needed to hold onto frustration and I needed to push for
what I wanted! The more I release my grip and open my hands to the Lord, the more I see that
life is so much more peaceful and joyful as I learn to walk in the light of His love, showing love
to others. It isn't always easy, but I trust that the Lord will help me. He never leaves me to
figure it out on my own. Just as Jesus is the propitiation for my sin, He's the help I need to
live for His honor and glory, in light and love.*