

# 1 John 2:1-6

2/4/19

After one of the services yesterday, a man told me that as he began coming to His Place he wanted to get to know God's Word. That was his new goal – to become a man of God's Word. That is a great goal. However, as he told me yesterday, it's not the end goal. It is a means to an end. The real goal is to become a man of God. Becoming men and women of God's Word is how we get to be men and women of God.

Even that can be a misleading statement. In [1 John 2:1-6](#) I think that John is explaining what being "in Christ" looks like. The real test is our direction in life. Have our desires changed? Is our focus on knowing and honoring Christ?

A thought that permeated my thinking this week is in verses 4-6. We know we have come to know Him if we keep His commandments. That word "keep" is more than simply obeying. God does not want an attempt to keep a list of do's and don'ts. C.S. Lewis wrote, "God doesn't just want people who obey a set of rules. He wants people of a particular sort." What John is telling his readers and us is those who have come to know Him are "people of a particular sort." They are those who embrace God's commandments. They cherish His words because they are the expression of His heart. God's living Word and His written Word are extensions, or exhibitions, of His nature.

Knowing Christ personally results in desiring to know Him increasingly. That is a description of loving God. Embracing, or keeping, His Word causes God's love to be completed in our lives. As we come to understand (hear) who Jesus is and what He has done on our behalf, we embrace Him by faith. It is the self-revelation of God through His Word (living and written) that draws us to Himself. As we continue to embrace Him, we continue to grow in love with Him. As we continue to grow in love with Him, John later tells us we will then love one another.

The question that I have been thinking through this week from this text and from a message I listened to by Francis Chan is, "Do I really love Jesus?" "Am I embracing Him above all other things in my life?" Perhaps we could say, "To know Him is to love Him." It seems that John would also say, "To know Him, we will love His Word."

The question I am wrestling with this week is, "Do I truly love Him or just say that I do?"

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. How does understanding what John is writing help keep us from sin? Is he talking about sinlessness?

