

First John 2:3-6
(repeats the thoughts of 1:5-7)

- 1) The sign of obedience—2:3 ³ *And by this we are knowing* [pres. act. ind. γινώσκω] ...
 - a) Knowing the Father personally: *that we have come to know* [pf. act. ind. γινώσκω] *Him* (the Father),
 - b) Condition for knowing that we know the Father: *if* [ἐάν, 3rd class condition] *we are keeping* [pres. act. subj. τηρέω] *His* (the Father) *commandments* [ἐντολή].
 - i) We perceive more and more a growing willingness to obey Him and movement in a direction marked out by the righteousness of God. We cannot claim to know God if we do not do what he says.
 - ii) Obedience to God does not bring about justification (which comes by faith alone), but obedience as a pattern of life does give evidence that one has been born again.
 - c) Negative example; profession without obedience—2:4 ⁴ *The one who* ...
 - i) Is characterized by saying and doing two things:
 - (1) *is saying* [pres. act. ptc. λέγω], “*I have come to know* [pf. act. ind. γινώσκω] *Him* (the Father),”
 - (2) *and is not keeping* [pres. act. ptc. τηρέω] *His commandments* [ἐντολή] (emphatic),
 - ii) Is characterized by two things:
 - (1) Positively: *is* [pres. act. ind. εἰμί] *a liar* [ψεύστης],
 - (2) Negatively: *and in this one* (emphatic) *the truth is* [pres. act. ind. εἰμί] *not*;
 - (a) God’s truth is not at work in or through him.
 - iii) To know him involves a personal relationship that transforms practical behavior.
 - d) Positive example; obedience flowing from love—2:5a ⁵ *but* [δέ] *whoever is keeping* [pres. act. subj. τηρέω] *His* (the Father’s) *Word* [λόγος],
 - i) *in this one* (emphatic) *the love* [ἀγάπη] *of* (objective genitive; love for) *God* (the Father) *has been genuinely* [adverb ἀληθῶς] *completed* [pf. pass. in. τελειόω].
 - ii) True love for God is expressed not in sentimental language or songs or mystical experience, but in moral obedience. The proof of love is loyalty (John 14:15).
- 2) The sign of imitation—2:5b-6
 - a) Restated—2:5b *By this we are knowing* [pres. act. ind. γινώσκω] *that we are* [pres. act. ind. εἰμί] *in Him* (the Father).
 - b) The sign of imitation—2:6 ⁶ *The one who is saying* [pres. act. ptc. λέγω] *he is abiding/residing* [pres. act. inf. μένω] *in Him* (the Father)
 - i) The reality of the moral, spiritual, and logical obligation—*continually has an obligation* [pres. act. ind. ὀφείλω] *also*
 - ii) The content of the obligation—*to be walking* [pres. act. inf. περιπατέω]
 - (1) Genesis 5:22, 24; 6:9; 17:1; John 12:35; Romans 6:4; 8:1, 4; 13:13; 14:15; 2nd Corinthians 5:7; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 2:10; 4:1, 17; 5:2, 8, 15; Philippians 3:17-18; Colossians 1:10; 2:6; 4:5; 1st Thessalonians 2:12; 4:1, 12; 2nd Thessalonians 3:6, 11; 2nd John 1:4, 6; 3rd John 1:3-4
 - iii) The pattern of the obligation—*just as That One* (Christ) *walked* [aor. act. ind. περιπατέω].
 - (1) Because we possess the same Holy Spirit He does.