

1 John Under the Microscope | Loving Obedience

³We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. ⁴The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

⁷Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. ⁸Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

⁹Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness.

¹⁰Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. ¹¹But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

¹²I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. ¹³I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father. ¹⁴I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

1 John 2:3-14

Read 1 John 2:3-14

📍 Investigate:

Using the passage to the left, do the following to investigate the observable details of the passage:

- Underline references to God's commands.
What are the reoccurring commands?
- Circle references to light and darkness in the passage.
How do these references relate to previous references to light and darkness in 1 John?
- Put a box around the things we are to do in this passage.

🗨️ Analyze:

Analyze the details to find the meaning of the passage through group discussion:

³We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. 1 John 2:3

Why does living a life of obedience lead us to know that we have come to know him? (v.3)

How does this balance out with other verses that teach we are saved by faith and not by works?

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When you think of the sin in your life, what do you think and feel when you read 1 John 1:4?

Does this verse mean that we must practice 100% obedience or never sin again to truly be in Christ?

How does obedience to God's commands "complete God's love" in us?

Why do you think John uses Jesus as the example of obedience and God's complete love?

Is Jesus' example realistic for us to strive for or to be measured by?

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How is John both writing an old and a new command in this passage?

“John is directly pointing to Jesus as the fulfillment of every Old Testament law. The command to love God and love people is nothing new, but seeing Jesus as the shining example of God’s character and love is new.”

¹⁰Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. ¹¹But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

Why are loving relationships one of the key markers in living in the light? (v. 10)

Why is hate inconsistent with the life of one who claims to know God?

Do you currently have a relationship that you need to reconcile or reconnect with based on God’s command to have loving relationships?

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Why do you think John designates these life-stages in the midst of his challenge to live obedient loving lives?

How does what he writes encourage them to walk in the light?

Synthesize:

Synthesize the message of Scripture with life through application.

Which parts of this passage challenged you the most?

What action steps of obedience and love can you take?