

1 John 2:3-11 – Obedience to God’s Commands

Introduction

1. Assurance of Saving Faith is Important (**2 Corinthians 13:5, 2 Peter 1:10-11**)
2. How can we know we have eternal life? Evidence not based in anything we are or do, but what Christ has done
3. Christ’s redeeming us transforms us and produces evidence that we are God’s sheep
4. Mere profession of Christ is not sufficient – we are to be doers of the Word, not just professors (**1 John 2:3, 3:10, 18-19, 24**)

Main Point: Obedience to Christ is a fruit of true saving faith. Knowing God through Christ leads to loving and faithful obedience to Christ. Union with Jesus Christ leads to Christ-likeness. Living in God’s light leads to love for God’s people.

The Moral/Ethical Principle of True Faith (vv 3-6)

1. *Knowing God through Christ Jesus leads to Loving, Faithful Obedience to Christ’s Commands (vv 3-5a)*
 - a. Knowing God = Heart of Eternal Life (**John 17:3**)
 - i. Difference between the World and the Believer (**John 17:25**)
 - ii. Tragic thing in world: People do not know God
 - iii. The Grace of God brings us to know God! (**Galatians 4:8-9**)
 - b. What kind of knowledge is this? Judas Iscariot knew Christ, Disbelieving scholars know the Bible (**Hos 4**)
 - i. Truthful Information vs Life Transformation
 - ii. Depth of Intimacy, Experience in this Knowledge: This *Knowing* is Redemptive Knowledge
 - iii. Cheap Grace & Easy Believism: Saying you know Jesus and living in Disobedience (**1 John 2:4-5a**)
 - c. Redemptive Knowledge leads to Spiritual Empowered Obedience = striving to perfectly obey Jesus Christ
 - i. Obedience is Love (**John 14:15-16**)
 - ii. Faithful Consistency in your life
 - d. Knowing God is knowing Holiness, Purity, Justice, Righteousness – leading the Christian to trust Him and love His law (**Psalms 1:1-2**)
 - i. Horizontal and Vertical Dimension
 - ii. Love becomes perfected (complete) when it is expressed – active obedience to Christ

2. *Union with Jesus Christ Leads to Christ-likeness (vv 5b-6)*
 - a. Christians are IN Christ, United to Him (**Rom 6:1-5**)
 - b. Union with Christ changes/transforms Us (**John 14:20-21, 15:4-5**)
 - c. A Christian’s loves/hates, desires/longings become radically different (**Ephesians 2:1-3, 4-6**)
 - d. Christians become empowered by the Spirit to Obey (**Rom 8:3-4**), filled with spiritual fruit (**Gal 5:22-23**)
 - e. Christians are encouraged to walk as Christ walked (**Col 2:6-7; Eph 4:1-3**)
 - f. Christians become mirror images of Jesus – little Christs who do as their Master does (**John 5:19**)

The Social/Relational Principle of Truth Faith (vv 7-11)

1. *Living in God’s Light Leads to Loving God’s People*
 - a. New Birth translates the Sinner from Darkness to Light (**1 Peter 2:9**) = produces a social/relational dimension
 - b. Christians are commanded to Love God’s Church
 - c. Christ loves His Church (**Ephesians 5:25-27**), therefore believers love the Church
2. The Old/New Commandment: Love The People of God!
 - a. How is the commandment old? *The beginning* = Your New Life in Jesus Christ (**1 Jn 2:23-4, 3:11; Jn 13:34**)
 - b. How is the commandment new?
 - i. The Old Testament commanded to Love God and Neighbor, perfectly and completely (**Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18**): None did
 - ii. Faithful Jews Expected a Darkness Overcoming Light from God (**Isaiah 60:19-20**)
 - iii. With the coming of Jesus (the light), He Makes His disciples Light (**Mat 5:14; 1 Thess 5:5**)
 - iv. Newness is the Children of the Light transformed to Live in God’s Light, evidenced by Loving God’s People as Christ did (**John 15:12-13**)
 - v. The passing of the darkness is progressive in that the Church continues to Shine in the World
3. Blind Hatred Stumbles in Darkness: illogical/ unreasonable
 - a. It exists in God’s Church (sour attitudes, resentment, unforgiving spirits, malicious words, loveless hearts)
 - b. Christians Learn to Love the Unloveable
4. The World Knows None of This: Toleration, But Not Love
 - a. The World hates God, does not Know Him, Obey Him, Love His Son, nor His People
 - b. The Miracle of New Birth Transforms us from worldly dark hate to Obedience, Christlikeness, & Godly Love