

1st John Lesson 2 – Love Is How We Are Known

1Jn 2:3-4 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. (4) He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

John is teaching precisely the same things Jesus taught. Jesus said many times that safety was only for those who were DOERS of His Word:

Luk 6:46-49 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? (47) Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: (48) He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. (49) But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

Mat 7:21-23 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. (22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? (23) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

NOTE: The words "knew" in Mat 7:23 and "know" in 1st John 2:3 above are the same Greek word: G1097 ginisko and it means "to know" ... John used the identical word he heard Jesus use all those decades ago. He did not alter what Jesus said ... at all. As another witness from another apostle, Paul is teaching the same thing Jesus taught in John 8:12 and Mat 7:23 when he wrote:

2Ti 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth [ginosko] them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

"EITHER YOU WILL DEPART FROM INIQUITY NOW ... OR YOU WILL DEPART FROM JESUS THEN."

The man in 1st Corinthians chapter five, the man who had his father's wife, was making his behavior known to the church. He was calling himself a Christian yet living in such

vile sin that even the heathen would not allow it. By his coming to church he was saying, *"I know Jesus. I am in fellowship with Jesus. It does not matter that I am living in vile iniquity. I know him."* John says the man is a liar and the truth is not in him. He does not know Jesus. John is holding fast to what Jesus said to those who cried, "Lord, Lord" but did not do His commandments. Jesus will say, "I never knew you, depart from me, ye that work iniquity." John is not watering down nor altering what he heard Jesus say fifty years ago. John is a faithful witness. He is simply teaching what he heard Jesus teach.

1Jn 2:3-4 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. (4) He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

"I know Him but my girlfriend and I have been living in fornication for two years." LIAR
"I know Him but I get drunk on alcohol and high on drugs every week." LIAR
"I know Him but I make a living using internet scams to steal money." LIAR
"I know Him but I cheat on my wife once in a while." LIAR

1Jn 2:5-6 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. (6) He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

Jesus taught if we love Him, we will keep His commandments.

Joh 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

Joh 14:23-24 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. (24) He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

Joh 15:9-14 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. (10) If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. (11) These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full. (12) This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. (13) Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. (14) Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

Love "one another" does not mean just loving the Christian brethren. Even sinners love those that love them. Jesus said our love is to include our enemies:

Luk 6:27-32 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, (28) Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. (29) And unto him that smiteth thee on the *one* cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not *to take thy* coat also. (30) Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask *them* not again. (31) And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. (32) For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.

Later in this very chapter Jesus says, "*Why call ye me Lord, Lord and do not the things that I say?*" You say you know Him. You say you love Him. Then you should walk as He walked. How did He walk? He forgave people their trespasses against Him. He prayed for those who were killing Him ... even while they were killing Him. He did not wait until they repented to love them. He did not wait until they repented to pray for them. He did not wait until they repented before He did good [died] for them.

"I know Him, and I love Him, but I will not forgive what they did to me."

"I know Him, and I love Him, but I won't pray for them until they repent."

"I know Him, and I love Him, but I won't pray for them until they apologize."

If that is your attitude, you are not walking like Him. You better make sure you are in Him. If you truly abide in Him, you will keep His commandments. You will forgive, you will love your enemies, you will pray for them and do good to them that hate you. Jesus taught us about loving our neighbor through the story of the Good Samaritan. The Jews HATED the Samaritans. HATED THEM! Yet notice how the hated Samaritan responded to the one who hated him:

Luk 10:30-37 And Jesus answering said, A certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded *him*, and departed, leaving *him* half dead. (31) And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. (32) And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked *on him*, and passed by on the other side. (33) But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion *on him*, (34) And went to *him*, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. (35) And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave *them* to the host, and

said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. (36) Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? (37) And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

Notice both a Priest and a Levite saw the half dead man, but they did not love him. AVOID DEAD RELIGION AT ALL COSTS. They passed by on the other side to avoid him. But when the hated Samaritan saw him, he had compassion on him. He bound up his wounds, poured in the oil and the wine, set him on his own beast, brought him to an inn and took care of him. Then he took out even more money to provide for the man and promised that if that was not enough ... he would pay the rest out of his own pocket when he returned. He did all of that for a man who HATED him. Jesus says to all of us, "*Go, and do thou likewise.*" Many Christians today do not obey and react more like this,

"They hate me. I will not pray for them."

"They talk evil about me all the time. I will not forgive them."

"They gossip about me and my family. I will not love them. I will not do good to them."

"If I see them suffering, well ... they just had it coming."

WHY CALL YE ME LORD, LORD, AND DO NOT THE THINGS THAT I SAY? John is being faithful to the teachings of Jesus even fifty years later. If you love Jesus, you will keep His words. If you love Him, you will walk as He walked. Love is how you know you are "in Him." You might want to ask the Holy Spirit about taking your love walk higher.

1Jn 2:7 Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.

What does John mean this is an old commandment which you have heard from the beginning? It is as old as,

Lev 19:18 ... thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Even under the Old Covenant, this was the command. Jesus taught us how serious God was about people obeying this commandment when He taught concerning the rich man and Lazarus. Many think this is a parable. No, there was a "certain" rich man ... an individual. Also, we know the name of the actual beggar. It was a man named Lazarus.

Luk 16:19-31 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine

linen, and fared sumptuously every day: (20) And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, (21) And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. (22) And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; (23) *And in hell* he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. (24) And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. (25) But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. (26) And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence. (27) Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: (28) For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. (29) Abraham saith unto him, **They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.** [They have the Word. They have Lev 19:18. It is their choice to be doers of the Word and not hearers only.] (30) And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. (31) And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

Do you remember the Priest and the Levite who crossed to the other side of the road to avoid the man who was left half dead? This parable also was directed at the Pharisees and the Scribes because they loved religion and the admiration of men, but they cared nothing for the lost sheep of Israel.

Do you suppose the rich man **heard** the Law read in the synagogues every Sabbath? Yes, he did. He had **heard** Lev 19:18 countless times in his life. But he chose to be a **hearer only and not a doer** of the Word. Where did he wind up? In HELL. He said, "*Go warn my brethren so they don't wind up in hell also.*" Abraham told him ... "They already have the Word ... they have already heard the Word just like you did ... they are choosing not to be a doer of it because ... they do not believe what it says."

1Jn 2:8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

Since the commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves is as old as Lev 19:18, why does John call it a new commandment? Because Jesus called it a new commandment when He taught it,

Joh 13:34-35 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. (35) By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Jesus added something from the old commandment. The old commandment was to "love your neighbor as you love yourself." Jesus now says to "love one another as He has loved you." This is much higher than human love. Jesus said "love" is how mankind will now be able to tell that they are His disciples.

I didn't get this for a long time but focus on this aspect ... "love is how all men shall know that you are my disciples." If you are at the airport, you can tell which people are in the military because of the uniform they have on. They are known by their uniform. You can tell which of the people walking through the airport are flight attendants. They are known by the uniform they are wearing. But how will people be able to know who the disciples of Jesus are? By the love they have for one another. In all of history, nobody had ever been "known" because of their LOVE.

You are a child of God. What is true in Him ... is also true in you. The darkness is past. God is light. You are a child of light. God is love. You are a child of love. You walk in the light because you are a child of light. You walk in love because you are a child of love. Remember ... God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. You are a child of light and in you is no darkness at all. You are a child of God. What is true in Him ... is also true in you.

1Jn 2:9-11 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. (10) He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. (11) But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

Have you ever known people who are very legalistic ... but they are mean and hateful to people? They are strict, judgmental, and give the appearance of being holier than everybody else. They may proclaim to everybody they see that they are a disciple of Jesus, but nobody who is acquainted with them would ever say ... that person is known for his love. LOVE is how we are to be known. Not the human kind of love that is being proclaimed by the world today. The world promotes alternate lifestyles under the banner of, "Love is love." They use that phrase to twist the truth of God into something God never said.

God is love and those that love Him keep His commandments. If you say you love Him and do not keep His commandments ... John is still a faithful witness fifty years later by saying ... you are a liar. You don't know Him, and you don't love Him.

God loves the sinner and is doing everything possible to save the sinner from eternal damnation. God loves the sinner even while He hates the sin. We don't hate sinners and we sure don't hate our brothers in Christ. Jesus is our pattern. He loved the Pharisees enough to tell them the truth, even though it meant they would crucify Him for doing it. We are to love the sinners of the world enough to tell them the truth even it means they call us haters and bigots ... even if it means persecution and imprisonment. We are to love like Jesus loved. Jesus never changed God's Word in order to "love" anybody. Neither do we.

Hate is a terrible thing. It is darkness. You cannot walk in it and walk in the light of love at the same time. You will always wonder why you have trouble finding the leadership of the Holy Spirit. You will be stumbling in the dark because you are "choosing" to walk in darkness rather than in love.