

Abiding in Light, Love, and Life

Notes & Personal Application

Abiding and Obedience

1 JOHN 2:3-11

Overview

In this passage, John continues to bring biblical clarity to combat the heresy among his readers. Out of that clarity comes assurance for all Christians as they see the internal joy of knowing God and the external marks of that same relationship. These verses encourage us with assurance in Christ and with confidence that we can change because of his grace in our lives. All change is rooted in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Introduction

John's main premise is that those who truly know God also choose to obey him (verse 3). For such people, this genuine relationship with God will always reveal itself in three marks of a true Christian. These marks are expressed along with the phrase "whoever says" in our passage.

Premise: Those who truly know God obey him (verse 3)

Three Marks:

"Whoever says"	I know him	Keeps his Word	(2:4-5a)
"Whoever says"	I abide in him	Lives like Jesus	(2:5b-8)
"Whoever says"	I am in the light	Loves fellow Christians	(2: 9-11)

Reflection Questions

1. Reflect on the time when you became a Christian. What brought you to the point of knowing God in a saving relationship?
2. How have you continued to get to know God since your conversion? Describe a moment when you got to know God in a deeper way than before.
3. Of the three marks of a Christian expressed in the passage, which grabs your attention the most and why?
4. As you reflect on those three areas in your life, where do you see growth that you can celebrate?
5. Where can you identify an area to grow in? For example, what would it look like for you to be more like Christ in your marriage, workplace, parenting, finances, etc.?
6. John links the internal of knowing God with the external of how we live out that relationship. Taking away either aspect results in breakdown. What is the alarm when someone says, "I know God," and yet refuses to obey him? What is the alarm when someone attempts to do all the right things but doesn't truly know God in a saving relationship?
7. What does this passage tell us about how true change occurs? How is our ability to change linked to our relationship with God?
8. What is a main takeaway from this passage for you? What is changing in the way you think and/or want to live?