

We Know; 1 John 2:3-6

I. An Advocate

- A. 1 John 1:9–2:2 (ESV); ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. ¹ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.
- B. Do not sin
 - 1. One of the common thoughts in the first century was that Jesus did away with sin, there was no longer any sin so you could do what you want
 - 2. Paul was combatting this thought in Romans 1-6
 - 3. Romans 6:1 (ESV); What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?
 - 4. People had twisted the Gospel to suit their own ends
- C. Confess
 - 1. “To share a common view or be of common mind about a matter, agree
 - 2. To concede that something is factual or true, grant, admit, confess” ¹
 - 3. If we admit that what we did was sin — if we agree with God, are of common mind about sin — “He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”
- D. Deny
 - 1. John’s next statement gives us the answer to those who would say that there is no longer any sin
 - 2. They are, in effect, denying the very words of God
 - 3. There is sinful behavior and we, as Christians should do everything we can to keep away from it
 - 4. But if we fall into sin...
- E. An advocate
 - 1. One who is called to someone’s aid
 - 2. The technical meaning of this word is lawyer or attorney
 - 3. Jesus is there, reminding God that His blood paid the price for our sins (if we agree with God about our sins)
 - 4. Propitiation — atoning sacrifice
 - 5. “Not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world”

II. His Commandments

- A. Know — there are two Greek words for knowledge
 - 1. A knowledge of something — familiarization training (LAW rocket, MK-19)
 - 2. A deep, even intimate, understanding of someone or something (M-60)
 - 3. Genesis 4:1 (ESV); Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord.”
 - 4. Jesus wants us to have a deep, intimate knowledge of Him and His commandments
- B. 1 John 2:3–4 (ESV); ³ And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,
- C. This is not going to be a list of commandments we have to follow
- D. This is going to be about attitude and willingness to follow Jesus
- E. Faith

¹ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 708.

1. Hebrews 11:1 (ESV); Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
 2. Hebrews 11:6 (ESV); And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.
 3. Seek — to exert effort to find out or learn something, seek out, search for ²
 4. Luke 15:8–10 (ESV); ⁸ “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”
- F. Christianity is more than just a simple belief that Jesus is our savior
1. It is a way of living — that is different than the rest of the world
 2. Hebrews 11 highlights this difference
 - a) Noah chose to build an ark instead of “every intention and thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5)
 - b) Abraham chose to obey God and leave for a land not knowing where he was going (Hebrews 11:8) — he could have stayed in Ur
 - c) Moses chose the “reproach of Christ” over all the wealth and pleasures of Egypt (Hebrews 11:26)
 3. Our faith necessitates a change in our behavior — this is how we develop that deep understanding, that intimate relationship with Christ
 4. James 2:24 (ESV); You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.
 5. James 2:26 (ESV); For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.
 6. This mirrors John’s statement about obedience to God’s commandments
- III. Know
- A. We cannot ‘know’ Jesus and continue to live by the world’s standards
 - B. We must walk as Jesus walked
 - C. 1 John 2:5–6 (ESV); ⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.
 - D. There should be no question in our mind about to whom we belong
 - E. We can know!
 - F. Our actions will tell both us and those around us
 - G. Do your actions reflect your faith?
 - H. Is your faith made manifest in your actions
 - I. If we keep His commandments, then we ‘know’ (intimate knowledge) Jesus

² Ibid, 302.