

I John 2:3-6 **The Moral Test**

Introduction:

The great theme of I John is Assurance. The believer in Christ can know positively that He is in the Kingdom of God, born again, redeemed and destined for heaven. The English Puritan Thomas Brooks wrote: "Assurance is a reflex act of a gracious soul, whereby he clearly and evidently sees himself in a gracious soul, blessed and happy state; it is a sensible feeling, and an experimental discerning of a man's being in a state of grace... assurance is a believer's Ark, where he sits Noah-like quiet and still in the midst of all distractions and destructions, commotions and confusions."

There are in I John, Three major tests:

1. **Moral test** – which is a test of righteousness – 2:3-6
2. **Social test** – which is a test of love for your brother or sister in Christ – 2:7-11
3. **Doctrinal test** – which the test of truth – 2:18-27

I. Moral Test Stated – 3

A. The use of the word "know" – 36 times

1. We know Jesus by keeping His commandments – John 14:15; 15:10
2. True and false knowledge – Titus 1:16 cf. II Tim. 3:5,7

B. Greek Philosophy

1. Plato- the greater the intellect the greater you could know God.
2. Other Greeks – emotional experiences brought you closer to God.
3. Christianity must have a blend of these two areas: knowledge and conduct
Jer. 9:23-24; 31:33,34

II. Moral Test Applied – v. 4-5

A. A mere profession is not enough – John 18:37; 10:27

B. Obedience flows out of love – v. I John 4:10

C. Confidence – I John 5:13 (Becke, Spurgeon)

III. Moral Test Exemplified – v.6

A. Jesus the perfect role model – Turn To: John 15:1-5

1. The metaphor- "walk" Eph. 2:10; 4:1, 2; 5:8 (Col. 1:10; 2:6; I Thess. 2:12; 4:1)

B. Concrete examples of emulating Christ:

1. If you are a Pastor – Teacher, Elder then you have responsibility of feeding sheep – John 21:15-19
2. Setting God's will as your priority –walking as Jesus walked. 58 commands pertaining to the church. "One another" commands. (Wayne Mack's book, "To be or not To be a church member"- Rom. 12:10, 16; 13:8; 14:13,19; 15:5,7,14; 16:16; Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:16; I Thess. 3:12; 4:9,18; 5:11
3. The matter of church discipline and accountability is totally absent if you are not a member – I Thess. 5:12,13; Heb. 3:13; 10:24; 10:25
4. The matter of "adding" to the church indicates an organize visible church – Acts 2:41,42

