

HOW DO I KNOW THAT I KNOW HIM?

1 JOHN 2:3-6 - ERIC SIMPSON - MARCH 12, 2017

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³ We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. ⁴ The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶ Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

Gnosticism = the enlightened ones, the knowers, the ones who believed they had a corner on the religious market

Genuine Jesus-followers are...

➤ **Seized by the power of a great affection**

Old Russian proverb = those who have been struck with the disease of Jesus will never be cured

➤ **Hungry to learn about God's ways**

Hunger is a sign of life.

A pre-requisite to obeying God's commands is knowing them.

➤ **Committed to whole-hearted obedience**

1 John 5:3

This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome

obey = watchful & careful observance, beyond compliance to the letter-of-the-law

loving God = obeying God

"...holiness is more than middle-class family values. It's all too easy to turn the fight of faith into sanctification-by-checklist. Take care of a few bad habits, develop a couple of good ones, and you're set. But a moral checklist doesn't take into consideration the idols of the hearts...So you end up feeling successful at spiritual growth because you stayed away from drugs, lost weight, served at the soup kitchen, and renounced Styrofoam. But you've ignored gentleness, humility, joy, and sexual purity. God has not really gotten to your heart...Mere rule keeping is not the answer because holiness cannot be reduced to a little ethical refurbishment." - Kevin DeYoung