

# BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

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OCTOBER 24, 2021

## TWO CONTRASTS IN KNOWING GOD

### 1 John Series on Genuine / Confident Christianity

#### 1 JOHN 2:3-6

What do we mean when we say we know someone? What does it mean to know someone? I may say that I know someone and yet still not know that person. It is possible to know the facts about Jesus and still not know Jesus. We can be in church speak the language of the Bible yet not have a true relationship with God or Father. **John declared the difference between possessing Christians and professing Christians. Knowing God is evidenced in a life of obedience to God.**

In this passage John gives some contrasts concerning knowing God.

#### I. THOSE WHO KNOW GOD. (Vs. 3; 5-6)

##### A. They Have Assurance From the Lord. (Vs. 3)

*“Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.”*

John gives a word of certainty to the believers. John didn't question his salvation. He knew that he was saved. If you were to ask John if he were saved he would have said without reservation or hesitation that he was. \* John had assurance not because he had convinced himself in his mind, but because he had the Christ in his heart. \* **David Jeremiah wrote**, *“Our life in God and our love for God is a function not of lip service but of life service.”* How can we know that we know Him? John says, *“if we keep His commandments.”* Our constant obedience to the Lord brings certain assurance from the Lord. There is great assurance from the Lord to those who obey the Lord.

In **verse 3** those who show they know God have assurance from the Lord. Next, we see:

##### B. They Have the Affection of the Lord. (Vs. 5)

*“But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.”*

When we keep His word God's love is manifest to us and in us, and through us. We experience the love of God and we allow others to experience the love of God through us. God cannot do a work in a person's heart and it not be seen in the person's life. When God truly does a work in a person it will be seen in their lives. When God's love is in us it will show that we know God. **John 15:12-13.**

Those who show they love God have **assurance** from the Lord; they have the **affection** of the Lord; **next we see:**

##### C. They Are Abiding with the Lord (Vs. 6)

*“He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”*

John is saying, ‘if we say we know Jesus we need to show that we know Jesus.’ John gives the requirement for abiding in Jesus. We are to live as He lived. “Walk” - **Figuratively it means to live.** We cannot live like Jesus if we do not know Jesus. God's not interested in how high we can jump, but how straight we can walk when we hit the ground. When we keep His commands we give evidence that we love God and that we know God.\

#### II. THOSE WHO SAY THEY KNOW GOD (Vs. 4)

##### A. Their Lips Are Deprived of Truth. (Vs. 4a)

*“He who says, ‘I know Him,’*

John moves from those who show they know the Lord, to those who say they know the Lord. John is saying that we can say it, but if we do not show it, then we do not know Him. Our walk is to line up with our talk, and if it does not we show that are lips are deprived of truth.

##### B. Their Lives Have Deviated From the Truth. (Vs. 4b)

*“and does not keep His commandments,”*

Those who don't know God will not live for God. It is impossible to live for God when we do not know God. **Vance Havner** once said, *“You have not really learned a commandment until you have obeyed it ... Nothing clarifies doctrine like doing. Each new thing learned becomes a millstone if we do not make it a milestone.”* Let me stop here and clarify! We do not teach a works based salvation but a faith based salvation. **Our obedience is not a requirement for salvation, but obedience is the result of our salvation.**

##### C. They Are Liars Devoid of the Truth. (Vs. 4c)

*“is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”*

John uses a strong word in this verse. Those who say they know the Lord and yet do not obey the Lord's commands is a liar. Those who are devoid of the truth do not serve God, but they serve themselves and Satan.

**John 8:44.**