

1 John 2 - How to Obey God

February 5, 2015

1 John 2:1-6

1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

3 **AND HEREBY WE DO KNOW THAT WE KNOW HIM, IF WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS.**

4 **HE THAT SAITH, I KNOW HIM, AND KEEPETH NOT HIS COMMANDMENTS, IS A LIAR, AND THE TRUTH IS NOT IN HIM.**

HOW TO KEEP GOD'S COMMANDMENTS

John 15:5

*"I am the vine, ye are the branches: **HE THAT ABIDETH IN ME, AND I IN HIM, THE SAME BRINGETH FORTH MUCH FRUIT: for WITHOUT ME YE CAN DO NOTHING.**"*

Obedience is a direct result of your relationship with God, not your self-discipline or willpower. The strength of your obedience is a direct reflection of the health of your communion with God.

2 Peter 1:3

3 According as **HIS DIVINE POWER HATH GIVEN UNTO US ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN UNTO LIFE AND GODLINESS, THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM** that hath called us to glory and virtue:

Matthew 16:24

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him **DENY HIMSELF, and TAKE UP HIS CROSS, and FOLLOW ME.**"

1. SELF-DENIAL

We are trained and programed to believe that happiness is getting what we want. But the carnal appetites of the flesh are the source of all our problems. To gratify the flesh is only feeding the problem of our lust and discontentment, making everything worse. Sin, birthed by our lust, only and always destroys.

We must retrain our minds to the reality that peace and joy can only come by self-denial and pleasing God, never by pleasing ourselves.

2. DEATH OF SELF

Self-denial is not possible in my own efforts or disciplines. Self-denial is only accomplished by faith in my personal crucifixion in Christ, being baptized into His death on the cross. "I am crucified with Christ." Galatians 2:20

Victory over the appetites of our flesh is never realized until we walk by faith in the realities of death to self and Jesus living in and through me.

3. FOLLOW JESUS - *“to be in the same way with, to accompany, to join one as a disciple”*

When we follow and know Jesus in a personal, living and growing relationship, that communion is the conduit through which His life lives and expresses itself through us. The relationship provides the power to obey.

1 John 2:1–6

5 BUT WHOSO KEEPETH HIS WORD, IN HIM VERILY IS THE LOVE OF GOD PERFECTED *(to complete, accomplish, bring to an end): HEREBY KNOW WE THAT WE ARE IN HIM.*

OUR LOVE FOR GOD DOES NOT GROW BY EMOTIONAL STIMULUS. OUR LOVE FOR GOD GROWS, IS CULTIVATED, DEVELOPED AND PERFECTED BY OBEDIENCE.

John 14:15

"If ye love me, keep my commandments."

1 John 5:3

"For THIS IS THE LOVE OF GOD, THAT WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS: and HIS COMMANDMENTS ARE NOT GRIEVOUS."

John 15:9–10

9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

*10 **IF YE KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS, YE SHALL ABIDE IN MY LOVE;** even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*

1 John 2:1–6

6 HE THAT SAITH HE ABIDETH IN HIM OUGHT HIMSELF ALSO SO TO WALK, EVEN AS HE WALKED.

2 Peter 1:4

*"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might **BE PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."*