

SERMON-BASED STUDY: WALK IN OBEDIENCE

1 John 2:3-11, ESV – ³And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

⁷Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. ⁸At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. ⁹Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. ¹⁰Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. ¹¹But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 This week we learned that there are ‘signs of life’ in those who are truly following Jesus: obedience, emulation, and love. Why are these considered ‘signs of life’ in followers of Jesus?

2 How is knowing Jesus deeply related to obeying His commandments and living like Him?

3 How did Jesus love others? What holds us back from loving like He did?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **James 1:22-25, ESV** – ²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

4 How does merely listening to God's Word lead to self-deception?

5 Do you think it is really worthless to hear God's Word without doing it? Why or why not?

6 How is knowing God's Word imperative to obeying Him?

B **Galatians 5:16-26, ESV** – ¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

7 What is the conflict between the sinful nature and the Spirit? How does this conflict affect followers of Christ?

8 Looking at the passage above, what does Paul mean by “walk by the Spirit”?

9 How does the passage above help you understand what it could look like for you to walk as Jesus walked?

TAKING IT HOME

Walking in obedience means walking in the ways of Jesus. How has your knowledge of Jesus, Christlike conduct, and love for others grown over time? Where do you still see room for growth in these areas? What is one thing you could do this week to grow in knowing Jesus, Christlike behavior, or love for others? Share with your group or accountability partner what God is showing you. Pray for one another as you strive to walk in obedience to Jesus.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

John 13:34-35, 14:15, 15:3-5