



02 AUGUST 2026 AM

1 John 2:3-6

TRIBE-4

= a close-knit community with shared identity

And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1 John 2:3-4

INTRODUCTION

A DEVOTION TEST 2:3-6

- as an ideal, the Bible often attributes wisdom with age

Job 12:12

With the ancient is wisdom; and in length of days understanding.

Proverbs 16:31

The [gray] head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.

- with age should come an understanding of value, worth, and priorities

Psalms 71:18

Now also when I am old and gray-headed, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.

- we live in such a **superficial** cultural: placing value on the latest trends or the opinions of others

superficial = not deep; on the surface

image over character...appearance, fashion

social media validation...followers, likes

consumerism...bigger, better, and brands

celebrity culture...who cares about their opinions

- by the time he wrote this letter, John was in his nineties
he had little time for nonsense...to him, things were black or white

1 John 1:5

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:8

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1 John 2:1

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not.

- our study of **First John** is going to take us deeper into the Christian life and draw us closer to the Savior

but first, pause and take a little test:

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

you are either born again or you are not

is there a place, a time, a prayer you can refer to when you asked God to forgive you of your sins?

is there a moment when you entered into a close, personal relationship with Christ?

many Christians are frozen this morning...they doubt their salvation and are afraid to truly examine their lives

If I'm not saved, what will people think?

If I am saved, why aren't I closer to God?

John is writing to believers (*fellowship, my little children*)
and here he offers two simple tests for our salvation

1. A LOVING TEST **verses 3-5**

And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

NOTE: in Greek, *we do know* is in the present continuous tense, indicating a constant, moment-by-moment experience of knowing Christ

KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS **verses 3-4**

this does not refer to *The Ten Commandments* particularly...saved people are under grace, not under law

Matthew 5:17

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

cf Seventh Day Adventists

rather, *commandments* refers to the general instructions given to believers throughout the New Testament

1 Thessalonians 4:2

For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.

cf **1 Thessalonians 5:12-22**

remember, John is writing a family letter...he is not saying we get saved by doing or keeping the rules

verse 4 gives us the *negative* aspect of this love test

KEEP HIS WORD verse 5

But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

there is a difference between keeping the
COMMANDMENTS of the Lord and keeping
the WORD of the Lord

John 14:15

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 14:23

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Revelation 3:8 Philadelphia

I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

commandments = doing what we are told

word = going above the call of duty

perfected = matured; completed

verse 5 gives us the *positive* aspect of the test

NOTE: a child who does his chores is keeping the commandment of his parents...a child who does more than that, without being told, is keeping the word of the parent

and in so doing, takes on the IMAGE of the parent

Romans 8:29

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Colossians 3:9-10

Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

2. A LIVING TEST **verse 6**

He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

ABIDING IN HIM

abide = to remain; to dwell

in this life, we can't be exactly as Christ was;
that is impossible

1 John 3:2

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

in the New Testament, the idea of 'abiding in Christ' occurs about **130x**...that would indicate it is an important concept

John 15:4

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

as branches, we are attached to the vine

as a result, fruit is produced

WALKING WITH HIM

the key to understanding is **EVEN AS HE** walked

as he is in the light **1:7**

as he is pure **3:3**

as he is righteous **3:7**

as he is, so are we **4:17**

some other examples:

Colossians 3:13

Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

looking back over his life, John could clearly see the example Christ left for him to follow

so much of what he wrote in this letter is repeated from the words of Christ in the *Gospel of John*

what Jesus said and did left an impact on John and changed how he lived

John 13:15 in the upper room

For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

1 Peter 2:21

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

the purpose of a test is to reveal, evaluate, or prove something

to measure ability

to evaluate quality

to expose strength, weakness

to demonstrate authenticity

so how are you doing on the tests?

is your love for God perfected in the way you keep His commandments and words?

can you say you abide in Christ as you walk with Him and follow His example?

