

**A Practical Study of 1 JOHN
“Fellowship With The Father”
Study Number Three**

1 John 2:3-11

Fellowship is Nourished by Obedience

When you learn the lessons of 1 John you have prepared yourself for what life is going to throw at you.

We have learned in study number one that blessing will come into our lives when we come to a relationship with Christ verse 1. Jesus Christ came verse 2 to give life that we might have fellowship with Him and with one another and that manifests itself in abundant joy.

Last time we learned that fellowship is broken by sin. When sin comes into our lives as believers we have not lost relationship we have only broken fellowship. You do not break relationship. You do not destroy relationship once you come into God’s family. But you can break fellowship. You can be in fellowship or out of fellowship right now depending upon your relationship to the Lord.

Now another critical issue is the whole issue of obedience and I have put in capital letters across my notes at this point **OBEDIENCE IS THE KEY TO BLESSING AND PROSPERITY. The Word of God is filled with references with regard to obedience.**

Joshua 1:7, 8

Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

1 Samuel 15:22

But Samuel replied:

“Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

Joshua 22:5

As Joshua give his farewell address to the people.

But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you; to love the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to obey his commands.

Deuteronomy 30:11, 14

Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach.

No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

Deuteronomy 30:16

For I command you today to love the Lord your God.

Ezra 7:10

Ezra prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord to do it, and to teach it in Israel.

Proverbs 3:5, 6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.

Isaiah 55:6-11

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

And then those sobering words of confrontation from the pen of Jeremiah 6:16.

Jeremiah 6:16

This is what the Lord says: “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. [*But weeping prophet Jeremiah says*] But you said, ‘We will not walk in it.’

Obedience!

And then I always get kind of a smile on my face when I hear Ezekiel getting this message from the Lord in Ezekiel 33.

Ezekiel 33:30, 31

As for you, son of man, your countrymen are talking together about you by the walls and at the doors of the houses, saying to each other, ‘Come and hear the message that has come from the Lord.’ My people come to you, as they usually do, and sit before you to listen to your words, but they do not put them into practice. With their mouths they express devotion, but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain.

Daniel 9:10-14

... we have not obeyed the Lord our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets. All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you.

Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you. You have fulfilled the words spoken against us and against our rulers by bringing upon us great disaster. Under the whole heaven nothing has ever been done like what has been done to Jerusalem. Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us, yet we have not sought the favor of the Lord our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth. The Lord did not hesitate to bring the disaster upon us, for the Lord our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not

obeyed him.

Zephaniah 2:3

Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land,
you who do what he commands.
Seek righteousness, seek humility;
perhaps you will be sheltered
on the day of the Lord's anger.

Zephaniah 3:2

She obeys no one,
she accepts no correction.
She does not trust in the Lord,
she does not draw near to her God.

Matthew 7:24-27

Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock. And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall.

You build your house upon the rock when you are a person who is wise and you are doing these things rather than just listening to them.

Now may I take just a moment to pull 3 references out of the Gospel of John to help us understand why John is so focused on obedience?

John 14:21

John records Jesus as having said in the Upper Room.

He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him.

And then in

John 15:10, 14

If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.

You are My friends, if you do what I command you.

And in

John 7:17

If any man is willing to do His will, he shall know of

the teaching, whether it is of God, or whether I speak from Myself.

And then I would wrap it up with

James 1:22-25

Be ye doers of the Word and not just hearers only, deceiving own selves.

I think too many times we are more interested in arranging COMPROMISES than we are in obeying COMMANDS and because of that we have a tremendous problem and it is the problem of expressing the obedient heart.

Listen to Hebrews 5:8

Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered.

Christ Himself in incarnate flesh learns the lessons of obedience by the things which He suffered. And where is the epitome of that conflict? It comes in the Garden of Gethsemane doesn't it? "Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me." You can sense the struggle of His humanity but when all is said and done, what is the most important thing? "Nevertheless, perish the thought, not My will, Yours be done."

You see when you deal with a sovereign God you have also have to deal with the obedient heart. Because He is either Lord of all or He is not Lord at all. And He is the Lord God and He does not change. And yet we have the problem of resisting the divine plan of going counter to the purpose with a stubborn heart and as a result we loose fellowship.

Last time we looked at the NEGATIVE. Broken by sin is negative. Fellowship is broken. Today we look at the POSITIVE.

“FELLOWSHIP IS NOURISHED BY OBEDIENCE.”

This is the pathway to in-depth relationship and maintained fellowship with the Lord.

Verse 3 is our first verse for this morning.

v. 3 And in this we are knowing that we know Him, if we are keeping His commandments.

Now you could translate that really because the Greek word is the word to KNOW by experience.

And we could say:

“And in this we are knowing that we have come to know Him.”

We have entered into a relationship with Him and the way we can tell it is:

“IF WE ARE KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENTS.”

The evidence of coming into relationship is a desire to please Him and to be obedient.

**It is the picture of the battle has been fought,
the surrender documents have been signed
and now there is reconciliation and peace.**

Jesus Christ rules and reigns supreme and now our greatest desire is to bring Him pleasure and joy by:

“KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENTS.”

The word KEEP means:

TO OBSERVE

it means TO FULFILL

it means TO PAY ATTENTION TO

it TO BE SENSITIVE.

It is the same word that John uses in Revelation 1:3

Blessed is he who reads those words and hears these words of the prophecy, and heeds them..

It is translated HEEDS there. It is KEEPING. One paraphrasing of that said:

“IT IS HE WHO IS TAKING MY DEEDS TO HEART.”

It is taking the Word of God into the heart. What is it that He wants us to do?

Now let's have definition on COMMANDMENTS here lest we get some legalist here. Commandments has nothing to do with the Mosaic Law. The Mosaic Law was designed to convict the sinner, to bring the sinner to Christ. The commandments we are talking about are the commandments of the Word of God, the statements where the Scriptures speaks to us. We manifest our love by our obedience.

I think it is summarized in 1 John 3:23.

And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

You know the Old Testament law was given that every mouth may be stopped and all the world may become guilty before God, that is one thing. The whole is Scripture is filled with words and deeds of things that ought to be characteristic of our lives.

Can I give you some great verses?

Psalm 19:7-14 summarize I think when we talk about commandments. Listen to the psalmist.

**The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul,
The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.
The precepts of the Lord are right,
giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the Lord are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.
The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever.
The ordinances of the Lord are sure
and altogether righteous.
They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the comb.
By them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
Who can discern his errors?
Forgive my hidden faults.
Keep your servant also from willful sins;
may they not rule over me.
Then will I be blameless,
innocent of great transgression.
May the words of my mouth and the meditation of
my heart
be pleasing in your sight,
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

It is a heart that wants to be obedient. And he is telling us here in the text that that is the characteristic. Obedience is natural. It flows out of a heart that has come into relationship.

v. 4 The one who is saying, “I have come to know Him,” and is not keeping His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in this one.

John does not have any problem at all communicating exactly how things are. He just simply gives you a false response here. Would you notice something? Like last time we had 5 responses to the light with the little word IF, if, if.

Okay we are going to have 5 responses to the fact that God wants an obedient heart this morning. And the 5 responses, the little key phrase is “THE ONE WHO” is saying, the one who is saying, the one who is saying, the one who is saying. It will just jump out of the text at you.

The first one is there in verse 4.

“THE ONE WHO IS SAYING, ‘I HAVE COME TO KNOW HIM,’ AND IS NOT KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENTS, IS A LIAR, AND THE TRUTH IS NOT IN THIS ONE” [*that person*].

Why?

“Faith without works is dead.”

Faith issues in the obedient heart. One of the assurances that you are His child is that you express the obedient heart. And so to say this, “the one who is saying” this, in verse 4, and is not doing it, he is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

Now does that sound a little bit like verse 6 last time where he said “If we say that we are having fellowship with Him and we are walking around in the darkness, we are lying and not doing the truth.” You see it is the false response again. It is realizing the fact that if Jesus Christ lives in my heart I want Him to be Lord and I want to do that which pleases Him. You cannot come into in depth fellowship with the Lord without going through Romans 12:1 and 2. You just cannot get there unless you go that way.

Romans 12:1, 2

I beg of you brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

And the only way you can do that is by the obedient heart! “Lord, not my will but yours be done.” The one who is saying “I have come to know Him” is going to express it in obedience.

And he is not keeping His commandments, he is a liar, and the truth is not in the person.

He is saying something with his lips that is not true in his life.

**Listen to what Stephen Charnock wrote
back in the 16th century.**

Is it not a more becoming thing to be ruled by the will of our sovereign, than by that of our lusts? To observe a wise and gracious authority, than to set up inordinate appetites in the room of his law?

You see he is telling you. Health, dynamic relationship is expressed in a desire to be obedient. And if that is not the compelling passion of your heart this morning, you have some problems with spiritual health that you need to deal with while you are here on this mountain.

Hudson Armerding for years was the President of Wheaton Bible College. He is now passed to the time of being in the retirement home and stricken with cancer but he left behind not only a legacy of his leadership but an excellent book called *The Heart of Godly Leadership*. And in the book he says:

What is important in the matter of delegation is a periodic review--accountability. Even the best of us needs this. A friend of mine says that most people do not do what they are expected to do; they do what they

are inspected to do.

You know could this be the reason why we have so many Lone Rangers running around in the body of Christ? You just do not want anybody messing with your stuff because somebody might come into your life to tell you that you need to be obedient in some areas that you are not really ready to buck up and bow your neck and become a man or a woman of God. Because somebody who is an unselfish friend might see something completely from a different perspective that is going to make you have to get on a saddle with burrs in it and get your act together and do something significant before you are through. I believe it. I am saying if you are telling me this morning that you mean business and you are going start expressing to your sovereign Father the obedient heart than you find somebody else you can tell it to whether it is wife or a close friend to whom you are going to be held accountable.

v. 5 But whoever is keeping His Word, truly in this one the love of God has been brought to maturity. In this we are knowing that we are in Him.

The little word “BUT” forms the contrast.

“WHOEVER IS KEEPING HIS WORD.”

What does it mean by “keeping His Word?”

You are OBEYING it.

You are OBSERVING it.

You are PAYING ATTENTION to it.

You are SENSITIVE TO it.

You are FULFILLING it.

Have you noticed the little word “keeping” has been there 3 times already?

- 1. “KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENTS” in verse 3**
- 2. “KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENT” in verse 4**
- 3. “KEEPING HIS WORD” in verse 5**

If obedience to the Word of God is not the desire of my heart then I had better ask myself the question have I ever come to know Jesus Christ because one of the normal manifestations of a relationship is a desire to be obedient. They just go together.

Verse 5 is the KEY VERSE for STUDY NUMBER THREE.

“FELLOWSHIP IS NOURISHED BY OBEDIENCE”

It is here in verse 5 if we are “KEEPING HIS WORD,” that is letting it talk to us, letting it be that which

motivates us to do those things that bring Him pleasure.

Psalm 1:1, 2

Blessed is the man
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked
or stand in the way of sinners
or sit in the seat of mockers.
But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he meditates day and night.

**“BUT WHOEVER IS KEEPING HIS WORD, TRULY
IN THIS ONE THE LOVE OF GOD HAS BEEN
BROUGHT TO MATURITY.”**

How do we bring love and obedience together?

John 14:21

He who has My commandments and keeps them, is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved of My Father and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him.”

You know one of the delights of studying the life of the Lord Jesus is to see how many times springing out of the text in the Gospel is a record of the #1 priority of Jesus Christ and that was to be obedient to the Father. Have you ever studied it like that?

John 4:34

Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.

John 8:29

And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.

And then

John 14:31

but that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, even so I do.

Luke 22:42

“Father, if You are willing, remove this cup; yet not My will, but Yours be done.”

Always desirous to be obedient to the Father.

“BUT WHOEVER IS KEEPING HIS WORD, TRULY IN THIS ONE THE LOVE OF GOD HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO MATURITY.”

We know we are in Him when this is true. We are expressing it in obedience.

When you manifest the spirit of disobedience there are consequences that are going to be set in motion by a sovereign God and you will not know the joy of love brought to maturity as long as you travel that path.

You see that in Jeremiah 6:16

This is what the Lord says: “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.

How is it that love and obedience go together? Well you tell it to your kids all the time, “If you loved me you’d really do this,” especially when they become teenagers. Love and obedience go together.

But how is love brought to maturity in obedience in this context?

I came up with 6 words. They all start with “S”.

- 1. First of all, LOVE IS SUBMISSIVE. Ephesians 5 “submit yourselves one to another.”**
- 2. Second, LOVE IS SELFLESS.**
- 3. LOVE IS SENSITIVE to that which pleases the other.**
- 4. LOVE IS SHARING.**

5. LOVE IS SACRIFICIAL.

6. LOVE IS SERVING.

When you take those 6 things and put them alongside of obedience you understand that when I am expressing obedience it is love that has been brought to maturity because obedience is in all 6 of those words.

SUBMISSION

SELFLESS

SENSITIVE

SHARING

SACRIFICIAL and

SERVING

Howard Hendricks in his book *Living by the Book* says:

Does this seem too rigid, too confining? If so, may I suggest that you might be settling for a decaffeinated form of Christianity--one that promises not to keep you awake at night. You see, God gives us His Word not to make us comfortable but to conform us to the character of Christ. And that goes way beyond pious feelings and good intentions. It penetrates to the level of our schedules and checkbooks, and friendships and jobs and families. If our faith makes no practical difference

there, then what difference does it make?

Right on Dr. Hendricks!

And how does the Father respond to that kind of thing?

“This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.”

And so He would say the same to us.

Alright we have come to the time when we hit the key to study number three.

“FELLOWSHIP IS NOURISHED BY OBEDIENCE”

Could we not take down the hymnal and with great benefit sing:

**Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Thou art the Potter,
I am the clay.
Mould me and make me
After Thy will,
While I am waiting,
Yielded and still.**

But the second verse has more to say.

**Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!**

Search me and try me,
Master, today!
Whiter than snow, Lord,
Wash me just now,
As in Thy presence
Humbly I bow.

But the third verse is even more penetrating.

Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Wounded and weary,
Help me, I pray!
Power all power
Surely is Thine!
Touch me and heal me,
Saviour divine!

But we do not want to stop there do we because the hymn writer tells the rest of the story.

Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Hold o'er my being
Absolute sway!
Fill with Thy Spirit
Till all shall see
Christ only, always,
Living in me!

And that brings us to verse 6 isn't that interesting?

v. 6 The one who is saying he is abiding in Him, he himself is morally obligated to be walking around just as that one also walked around.

I have a responsibility as a believer to be a person who is walking around just like Jesus walked around. In order for that to happen I have to be a person who is expressing it with an obedient heart.

John Calvin in *Institutes of the Christian Religion* said this:

A likeness in life and deeds will prove that we abide in Christ.

We are abiding in Him when there is a likeness of the Lord Jesus in our lives.

John loves the word “ABIDE.” And the little word abide means TO REMAIN. It means TO LIVE IN UNION WITH.

And I always use 3 statements to describe the word abide. If you are abiding in Him this morning:

1. you are DRAWING upon all that He is,
2. you are DEPENDING upon all that He can do and
3. you are DEVELOPING into His likeness.

That is I am the vine, you are the branches. He that is

abiding in Me and I in him, the same is bringing forth much fruit, for without Me you can do nothing.

Are you experiencing the abiding life in Christ this morning? Then it will manifest itself in a likeness to the Lord Jesus.

Do you see the progression? As I express the obedient heart His love begins to manifest itself in me and I am becoming more and more Christlike because His life is flowing through me as I abide in the Lord Jesus.

v. 7 Beloved ones, I am not writing to you a new commandment, but an old commandment which you were having from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you heard.

And that old commandment of course is to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

The obedient heart is going to be manifested in 3 ways:

- 1. I KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS.**
- 2. I AM WALKING LIKE JESUS WALKED.**
- 3. AND I AM GOING TO MANIFEST LOVE FOR THE BRETHREN.**

An obedient Christian is going to show up in 3 ways:

- 1. YOU ARE GOING TO BE KEEPING HIS WORD.**

2. **YOU ARE GOING TO START TO LOOK LIKE JESUS, YOU ARE GOING TO WALK LIKE HE WALKED. Verse 6**
3. **BUT YOU ARE ALSO GOING TO MANIFEST IT BY LOVING THE BRETHREN.**

You can say that you are obedient:

BY THE WORD,

BY YOUR WALK

and BY YOUR LOVE.

Those are the manifestations of the obedient heart.

v. 8 Again a new commandment I am writing to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the genuine light already is shining.

This love that was first seen in Him is going to be seen in us. That is seen because we are walking in the light. Now he brings light and darkness back into it.

“THE DARKNESS IS PASSING AWAY, AND THE GENUINE LIGHT IS ALREADY SHINING.”

Proverbs 4:18

The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn,
shining ever brighter till the full light of day.

It ought to be getting brighter and brighter my dear brother and sister as the darkness of a past life of unfaithfulness and disobedience begins to fade into insignificance and you are walking into the light.

v. 9 The one who is saying that he is in the light and is hating his brother, he is in the darkness until now.

“THE ONE WHO IS SAYING THAT HE IS IN THE LIGHT AND IS HATING HIS BROTHER, HE IS IN THE DARKNESS UNTIL NOW.”

Here is the third response,

“THE ONE WHO IS SAYING”:

1. You had one back in verse 4.
2. You had one in verse 6.
3. Now here is the third one in verse 9.

The one who is saying he is in the light and he hates his brother, he is in the darkness until now. You cannot actually say you are in the light and hate your brother and really believe that you are in the light. The minute

you manifest hatred for your brother, you have broken fellowship and you are walking in darkness. That takes us back to chapter 1 again and it is the blood of Jesus Christ that has to cleanse you from that sin of hatred for your brother in order to once again walk in the light.

You see there are spiritual dangers all around us, aren't there?

Last time we learned that if we say we have not sinned we deceive ourselves in verse 8.

In verse 10 we say if we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His Word is not in us.

But then we can say “we love God but we are hating our brother.” You cannot do that. You cannot say “I love God and hate my brother” and continue to be walking in the light. They do not go together.

What he is saying is if I am walking in the light, love is going to be a manifestation of my horizontal relationships and when it is not I have to deal with those things or fellowship is going to be broken.

Now doesn't this make sense? You see some of you might be sitting here giving confession to the fact that you are walking in fellowship with God because you have not committed such and such a sin and such and such a sin and you have dealt with the stuff in your life but you hate the guts of some guy that you just cannot

stand and you have not processed that and dealt with it and it is that over there which has broken your fellowship over here. Because God is deeply concerned about our interpersonal relationships that love flow through us unhindered to others.

The one who is saying that this is true is not walking in the light.

What have we learned here?

LOVE and LIGHT go together.

HATRED and DARKNESS go together.

And it is impossible for me to be living in the light and to be walking around in the light and not loving my brother. INDIFFERENCE IS IMPOSSIBLE. It is either love or hate here according to John and hate is living in the flesh.

Now there are 5 ways you can treat your brother.

- 1. You can treat him as NEGLIGIBLE – He is a man who is so self-centered that no one matters except himself so your brother is just negligible.**
- 2. You can treat him with CONTEMPT – He is a fool in comparison to my intellectual attainments.**

3. Or he is a **NUISANCE** – In the sense that he is underprivileged.
4. He is an **ENEMY** – In that he is a competitor in my cause.
5. Or he is a **BROTHER** – His needs are my needs and I must meet those needs in giving myself to him.

v. 10 The one who is loving his brother is abiding in the light, and there is not a stumbling block in him.

There is your fourth response, hang on dear friends you are almost there.

The one who is loving his brother is abiding in the light, there is no stumbling block in him.

That word “**STUMBLING BLOCK**” means:

TRAP,

it means **TEMPTATION,**

it means **THAT WHICH GIVES AN OFFENSE,**

it is that which **STAINS THE LIFE,**

or brings about **DISAPPROVAL.**

You cannot do the two.

Verse 11, here comes the fifth and final response.

v. 11 But the one who is hating his brother is in the darkness and he is walking around in the darkness, and he does not know where he is going because the darkness blinded his eyes.

He is a man who does not have any significant direction in his life because he is living in the darkness, the darkness of hatred of his brother. And so the fellowship has been broken and there is no light to direct. The darkness has blinded his eyes.

Notice the 3 results there:

1. He is out of fellowship and he is in the darkness.
2. He is continuing his conduct and activities in the darkness. He is living in the flesh.
3. And he does not know where he is going because his eyes have been blinded by continuing to walk in the darkness.

Do you know how Jesus felt about that?

Matthew 15:14

Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall

into a pit.

The picture the Lord saw of religion in His day filled with prejudice and with hatred.

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

LESSON #1: One of the assurances of salvation is our obedience to His Word.

LESSON #2: A person who is saying he has come to know Him and is not obedient is a liar and the truth is not in him.

LESSON #3: The love of God is brought to maturity in the obedient heart.

LESSON #4: To be abiding in Christ is to have an inward, enduring, personal communion with Him.

LESSON #5: If we say we are abiding in Him, we are morally obligated to be walking like Him.

LESSON #6: The primary expression of the obedient heart is a love for one another.

LESSON #7: This love is seen first in Him and then in us as a fruit of the Spirit.

LESSON #8: You cannot be hating your brother and walking in the light at the same time.

**LESSON #9: The two results of loving our brother are:
1) abiding in the light; and 2) no stumbling block in us.**

LESSON #10: There is no guidance or direction while we are walking in darkness.

STUDY NUMBER THREE – 1 JOHN 2:3-11

FELLOWSHIP IS NOURISHED BY OBEDIENCE

KEY VERSE 2:5

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v. 7 Beloved ones, I am not writing to you a new commandment, but an old commandment which you were having from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you heard.

v. 8 Again a new commandment I am writing to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the genuine light already is shining.

v. 9 The one who is saying that he is in the light and is hating his brother, he is in the darkness until now.

v.10 The one who is loving his brother is abiding in the light, and there is not a stumbling block in him.

v.11 But the one who is hating his brother is in the darkness and he is walking around in the darkness, and he does not know where he is going because the darkness blinded his eyes.

NOTES

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 John 2:3-11 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. How do we know that we know Him, according to verse 3?

3. What does John say about someone who professes with his lips to know Christ and is not obedient, according to verse 4?

4. What are the results of obedience in verse 5?

5. What is our moral obligation, according to verse 6?

6. What is the commandment that John is talking about here in verses 7 & 8? (see John 13:34, 35).

7. What is the true condition of someone who is “hating his brother,” according to verse 9?

8. What is true of the one who is “loving his brother,” according to verse 10?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?
