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### How to Really Know God

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## HOW TO REALLY KNOW GOD

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF 1 JOHN  
NUMBER 7  
1 JOHN 2:3-6

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1 JOHN 2:3-6 "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. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."

The help we received in the past is what the Bible calls propitiation. This is something that was done for us by Christ. In this passage we come to study the believer's future help, which is in doctrine based on the truth of The Word of God. The believer's past help is propitiation, the cross. The believer's future help is The Word of God, doctrine. We use 1 John 1:9 in order to get back in fellowship so we can be filled with The Holy Spirit. But being filled with the Holy Spirit and then not learn any new doctrine is like living in a vacuum. It means you are in a static condition and not going anywhere. Being filled with The Spirit must be connected with the learning of doctrine if the believer is to have a happy and productive Christian life. Maximum effectiveness in the Christian life comes from maturity. The road from the baby stage to the mature stage is always the road of doctrine

1 JOHN 2:3 "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments." The word "hereby" really means "in this" and it means "in grace." Please notice here that we have the word "know" twice in this first phrase. Knowing doctrine is the highest virtue of the Christian life. Not sincerity, not a one-shot dedication decision, not an emotional response to some fancy idea you may have about the spiritual life--none of these leads to spiritual maturity. A clear knowledge of doctrine is the only way you can reach spiritual maturity. Progress in your Christian life is based on the learning of doctrine.

### Prerequisites To Maturity

No one can learn Bible doctrine unless he is filled with the Holy Spirit. The daily inhale of Bible doctrine is absolutely essential for the development of spiritual maturity. This is the only way to replace darkness with light. Light in the soul comes from doctrine, and doctrine eliminates the darkness every time. Someone has said, "Don't curse the darkness, just light a match." The way to light a match in your soul is to take in doctrinal truth. You can't appreciate or love God apart from the knowledge of doctrine. The word for know here is ginosko. It occurs twice in this phrase. The first time it occurs it is a present, active, indicative and the second time it occurs it is a perfect, active, indicative. Ginosko means to learn from the experience of study. It is not an accident that John changed from the present tense to the perfect tense here. The present tense of ginosko means to keep on studying and learning. There is no let up. The process of learning must keep on being the daily practice of every growing Christian. There can be no let up on this. The active voice means that the learner must have positive volition toward doctrine. The indicative mood is the reality of the importance of soul breathing.

EPHESIANS 4:23-24 "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

In verse 23 we read, "Keep on being renewed by the breathing of your mind." The breathing of your mind is the inhale of Bible doctrine and the exhale of faith toward God. This is exactly the same thing as ginosko here in 1 John 2:3.

Then in verse 24 of Ephesians 4 "that you put on" is an aorist, active, imperative, so this is God's direct command to us. And we are commanded to put on "The new man." "The new man" is the perfect tense of ginosko and they mean the same thing. This is the building of the Edification Complex in the soul. The first floor is Bible Doctrine. The second floor is faith or grace orientation. The third floor is inner happiness. The fourth floor is a relaxed mental attitude. The fifth floor is the capacity to love. The penthouse or top floor is a mastery of the details of life. This is that perfect tense of that word ginosko.

### Know That You Know

Therefore in these two words we have the expression "We do know that we know." The only way to maturity in the Christian life is the knowledge of doctrine. "We know that we do know" and I suppose there is not a more important line in the Bible for the mature Christian. This is exactly the same thing as the true meaning of Ephesians 4:23-24. The first ginosko is the means and the second ginosko is the result. This "if" is a third class condition with the present, active, subjunctive of tereo and it means to keep something that belongs to you. The edification complex is now yours. You have built your own edification structure in your soul. You actually possess this structure. Now how are you going to maintain it? One way, and one way only. Keep constantly taking in truth. Keep learning! Guard that something that is yours. You can't erect an edification complex and then abandon it. So this says, "If we guard his commandments" and this is not talking about the Ten Commandments. This is talking about the truth given us in Scripture.

1 JOHN 2:4 "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." This verse will now amplify this truth. Next we have "He that saith." John has an interesting way of bringing up these things. These are wild ideas that some cluck brings up, and John reports them to us so we can see what the real truth is. Here in 1 John he is constantly shooting down clucks.

Back in 1 John 1:6 we say the cluck who said that you can still have fellowship with the Lord and walk in darkness. Then in 1 John 1:8 we saw the cluck who said that we don't have an old sin nature after we are saved. Then in 1 John 1:10 we saw the cluck who said that after salvation we don't commit acts of sin. So John takes out each of these clucks one at a time and shoots them down. Now here we have another of those "He that saith." The thing this cluck says is, "I know him" but he really doesn't. "I know him" is a perfect, active, indicative of ginosko. This is the person who says he has arrived, that he is mature but he really isn't. He thinks that because he is moral, he keeps the Ten Commandments, he is sincere, he goes to church, and because of these things he is a model advanced believer. He is deluding himself and doesn't know what mature Christianity really is. "And keepeth not his commandments" is the present, active, participle of tereo plus the negative. It means he makes a habit of not learning doctrine. He has

a lot of pseudo ideas and neglects doctrine. This kind of person is always dangerous. This is a good picture of the average church member today. I heard a person say, "It's not how much doctrine you know that counts, but how much good you do every day is what really counts. That's about like saying, "How many people are you able to confuse today?" Here in our passage this man thought he was a spiritual giant but in reality he was a spiritual moron.

Next we have "He is a liar" and this is the present, active, indicative of eimi and it means that he keeps on being a liar so long as he continues to hold to his present attitude. The word for "liar" is pseustes and it means to practice a lie. It is more than speaking a lie. It is acting out the lie you speak. The thing he lacks is the truth, and the word is aletheia and this is the word for Bible doctrine learned categorically and exegetically. Bible doctrine keeps on not being in him and that's why he is a cluck. He had no standards, no soul breathing, and he walks around, and on the basis of his emotion, he sets up his own norms and standards which are almost always contrary to the Word of God. He is just a walking scar tissue case.

1 JOHN 2:5 "But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him." Now we come to the verse which gives us the contrast of the person who walks under the direction of The Holy Spirit. The word here translated "keepeth" is the present, active, subjunctive of tereo and it means to guard the Word of God. He guards Bible doctrine in his soul. The word "verily" is better translated "truly." "The love of God" is from agape and this is mental attitude love. It is a relaxed mental attitude and it is produced from two sources.

#### Two Sources for Guarding Doctrine

The first source is the filling of the Holy Spirit. We picked this up from Romans 5:5. "And hope maketh not ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

The Holy Spirit always sheds forth the love of God within us. Then in the second place, agape love is a part of the edification complex in the soul. We call it a relaxed mental attitude and it comes from having doctrine in the mind. The word "perfected" means maturity it means a state of inner stability. This word is the perfect, passive, indicative of teleioo and it means to complete something. It begins by the inhale of doctrine and is completed by the work of the Holy Spirit and by the maximum intake of doctrine. The word "hereby" may be better translated "in this." Now we have another present, active, indicative of ginosko and it means we keep on knowing. We keep on knowing that we are in union with Christ. This is the exact truth that Paul came to understand when he had his conversion on the Damascus Road. It suddenly dawned on Paul that every believer is in union with Christ. That is what happens at the moment of conversion. We are at once entered into union with Christ. This happens by the baptism of The Holy Spirit at the moment of conversion.

#### The Meaning On Union With Christ

This happens to every believer at the moment of salvation. We become new creatures not because we have changed our behaviour patterns but because we are in union with Christ. When Christ ascended, he sat down on the right hand side of God and at that moment in his humanity, he became higher than angels and that caused the Angelic Conflict to shift

gears. The whole concept of positional truth is this: If one human is higher than angels, then Satan has lost the conflict. But that isn't all. This also means that we are in the intensified stage of the Angelic Conflict, we are entered into union with Christ, and that means we are higher than angels in our position. This makes every demon in the earth gnash his teeth when he realizes that humans are higher than angels. This is taught in Colossians 2:15. "And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it." This is where the cross is said to be the defeat of Satan. This is also expressed in Hebrews 2:14-15. "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." These are some of the implications that come from knowing that you are in union with Christ.

### Illustration

Just suppose, for illustration (I don't suppose it will ever happen to you) that your husband would put \$50,000.00 in your personal checking account. You don't know anything about it yet, and you go out and spend some money rather cautiously, for you are still operating on the limited budget you have always had. As yet you don't know anything about this new "fling budget" you really have. You watch the spending of every penny and the reason is that you don't know that you have this \$50,000 in your own personal account. Then somebody comes up and says, "What you don't know doesn't hurt you." Yes, indeed, it does. Now that is just a small illustration of the great difference it makes when you know doctrinal truth. It makes all the difference in the world. The verse ends up with the words "we are in him." This is the status of every believer and it makes all the difference in the world if we know these things.

1 JOHN 2:6 "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." Experiential sanctification should be compatible with positional sanctification. The word "abide" sometimes means positional truth and sometimes it means the filling of The Holy Spirit. Meno is the word and it means being in the bottom circle, it means being in fellowship. Now he really isn't, for he is under the control of the old sin nature. He only claims to be in fellowship. "He that saith" is the cluck who comes up with this wild claim that he is in fellowship when he really isn't. That is why we might entitle 1 John as "Shooting Down Clucks." This man in this verse contends that he abides in Christ when he doesn't. John then says "He ought" and this is a present, active, indicative of opheilo and it means he has an obligation to stay in the bottom circle. "To walk" here is the present, active, infinitive of peripateo. Here is the cluck who says he is walking in the light when actually he is walking in the darkness. He ought to walk as Christ walked, and in order to explore this, we have to take up several doctrines. We have to study the Doctrine of The Humanity of Christ, The Doctrine Of Christ's Transition, and The Doctrine of Putting On Christ. This leads us into another subject and we will take this up in our next study.