

Fellowship With Jesus

Text: **1 John 2:3-6 HCSB** This is how we are sure that we have come to know Him: by keeping His commands. **4** The one who says, "I have come to know Him," without keeping His commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. **5** But whoever keeps His word, truly in him the love of God is perfected. This is how we know we are in Him: **6** the one who says he remains in Him should walk just as He walked.

Introduction

1. A concern of John's first epistle is that we have fellowship with the Father and the Son: "that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ." (1:3)
2. He began by stressing the basis upon which we may fellowship with the FATHER - 1 John 1:5-2:22
 - a. Walk in the light as He is in the light
 - b. Confess our sins, don't deny that we have sin
 - c. Make use of our "advocate" and "propitiation", Jesus Christ the Righteous
3. But what about fellowship with the SON? In our text (1 John 2:3-6), John now describes how we can "know" that we have fellowship with Jesus Christ
A key phrase in this passage is "by this we know..." found twice (2:3, 5). In other words, "here is how we can be sure". And John's first point is...

I. By this we know that we know Him (3-5a)

A. Here is how we can be sure we are in fellowship with Jesus...

1. Identifying the "Him" of this passage
 - a. Is it God or Jesus? The Father or the Son?
 - b. In light of the context, it is Jesus the Son of God - cf. 1 John 2:1-2, 6
 - **1 John 2:1-2, 6 HCSB** My little children, I am writing you these things so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father--Jesus Christ the righteous One.
- 2 He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world. **6** the one who says he remains in Him should walk just as He walked.
 - c. This fits in well with John's aim in this epistle - cf. 1 John 1:3
 - **1 John 1:3 HCSB** what we have seen and heard we also declare to you, so that you may have fellowship along with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
 - 1) He has described the basis for fellowship with the Father
 - 2) Now he discusses the basis for fellowship with the Son
2. What it means to "know" Jesus
 - a. As frequently used by John, the word "know" {ginosko} denotes a knowledge that comes by experience, by sharing experiences in life together
 - b. In this sense, it implies that "fellowship" (sharing, communion) has taken place

B. We can be sure, if we keep His commandments

1. Fellowship with Jesus is dependent upon keeping His teachings
 - **John 14:21-23 HCSB** The one who has My commands and keeps them is the one who loves Me. And the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father. I also will love him and will reveal Myself to him." **22** Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it You're going to reveal Yourself to us and not to the world?" **23** Jesus answered, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

2. The person who claims to "know" (have fellowship) with Jesus, and does not keep His commandments...
 - a. Is a liar, and the truth is not in him!
 - **1 John 2:4 HCSB** The one who says, "I have come to know Him," without keeping His commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
 - b. Is just like the one who claims to have fellowship with the Father while walking in darkness!
 - **1 John 1:6 HCSB** If we say, "We have fellowship with Him," and walk in darkness, we are lying and are not practicing the truth.
3. But the person who keeps the words of Jesus, the "love of God" is perfected in him!
 - a. This "love of God"...
 - 1) Is it God's kind of love?
 - **1 John 3:16-17 HCSB** This is how we have come to know love: He laid down His life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers. **17** If anyone has this world's goods and sees his brother in need but shuts off his compassion from him-- how can God's love reside in him?
 - 2) Is it God's love for us?
 - **1 John 4:9 HCSB** God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent His One and Only Son into the world so that we might live through Him.
 - 3) Is it our love for God?
 - **1 John 5:2-3 HCSB** This is how we know that we love God's children when we love God and obey His commands. **3** For this is what love for God is: to keep His commands. Now His commands are not a burden,
 - I suspect John is referring to our love for God, for the context concerns keeping the commandments of Jesus
- b. Such love for God is "perfected" (made whole, complete) only when we keep the commandments of His Son!
 - **John 14:15, 21, 23 HCSB** "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. **21** The one who has My commands and keeps them is the one who loves Me. And the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father. I also will love him and will reveal Myself to him." **23** Jesus answered, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

So we can be sure that we "know" Jesus, that we are in fellowship with Him, and that we have perfected our love for God, ONLY if we are keeping the commandments of Jesus!
To stress the point even further, John continues by point out...

II. By this we know that we are in Him (5b-6)

A. Here is how we can be sure we are abiding in Jesus

1. The word "in" (5b) is parallel to the expression "abides in" (6a)
2. "Abiding in Jesus" is described by Jesus Himself as similar to a branch abiding in the vine
 - **John 15:4-5 HCSB** Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me. **5** "I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me."
 - a. There is a union, or attachment, between the branch and vine
 - b. From this union comes a communion, or sharing
3. So again, we are discussing the idea of having fellowship with Jesus

B. We can be sure if we walk just as he walked

1. The person claiming to "abide in Jesus" (or to have fellowship with Him) should "walk" (live) just as Jesus did!
 - a. For only those who follow His words are truly His disciples
 - **John 8:31 HCSB** So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, you really are My disciples.
 - b. And those who are His disciples will become like their Teacher
 - **Luke 6:40 HCSB** A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.
 - c. Such is the goal of discipleship, and of God's scheme of redemption itself!
 - **Romans 8:29 HCSB** For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers.
2. Understanding and applying this truth should have powerful ramifications in how we live (as illustrated in the novel "In His Steps", by Charles Sheldon)

Conclusion

1. We learn from John, then, that the key to knowing that we have fellowship with Jesus is understanding the difference between "talking" and "walking"
 - a. Anyone can say that they know Jesus - that they abide in Him
 - b. But those that really know are those who...
 - 1) KEEP His commandments
 - 2) WALK just as He walked
2. Do you really know Jesus? Are you in fellowship with Him, wherein is eternal life and fullness of joy?
 - a. Have you kept the commands of Jesus?
 - b. How about His commands concerning faith, repentance and baptism?
 - **Matthew 28:18-19 HCSB** Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
 - **Mark 16:15-16 HCSB** Then He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
 - **Acts 2:38 HCSB** "Repent," Peter said to them, "and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus the Messiah for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
 - **Acts 22:16 HCSB** And now, why delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins by calling on His name.'
 - c. How about His commands to observe ALL that He commanded, including those revealed through His apostles?
 - **Matthew 28:20 HCSB** teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
 - **Acts 2:42 HCSB** And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayers.
 - **1 Corinthians 14:37 HCSB** If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, he should recognize that what I write to you is the Lord's command.

How you answer reveals the truth regarding your relationship with God, and your hope for eternal life!