

May 1, 2022  
*The Bridge Bible Fellowship*  
Pastor Paul S. Brown  
1 John 2:3-6

### **“Moral Test #1 – Part 6: Obedient Love”**

- I. Prologue [Introduction] – 1:1-4
- II. Tests of Genuine Fellowship: Cycle (Spiral) #1 – 1:5-2:27
  - A. The Moral Test – 1:5-2:6
    - 1. The Standard (Criterion): Light – 1:5
    - 2. The Statements (Contrasts) – 1:6-10
    - 3. The Savior (Christ)
    - 4. **The Saved (Children) – 2:3-6**
      - a. **The Who and What they Love Test (3-5a)** – <sup>3</sup> By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. <sup>4</sup> The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; <sup>5</sup> but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected.
  
      - b. **The Where and How they Live Test (5b-6)** – By this we know that we are in Him: <sup>6</sup> the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked. [NASB95]

## Discussion & Application:

1. A lot of professing Christians believe they have **assurance** of salvation because they prayed a prayer or walked an aisle or got baptized or go to church... Why is it important to “**test**” their profession of faith to see if it’s genuine? (2 Cor. 13:5; Tit. 1:16; Mt. 7:22-23)
2. Read 1 John 2:3-6 and list the **key words**. How many times does the word “**know**” appear? What does it mean to “know” Him? Is that more than knowing the facts about Him? (See Gen. 4:1 cf. Jn. 17:3) What does it mean to “know” that you “have come to know Him”?
3. What does the word “**keep**” mean in 1 Jn. 2:3, 4, 5? (See also John 14:15; 15:10; 1 John 3:22, 24; 5:3; Rev 12:17; 14:12) What synonyms can you find for the word keep? What is the connection between keeping and loving? Bonus points if you read through Psalm 119 and identify other ways the psalmist describes the true believer’s relationship to God’s law, word, commandments.
4. Some might say, “If we are saved by grace alone through faith alone in the finished work of Christ alone, then how does keeping God’s commandments give us assurance of salvation? Isn’t that adding works to faith?” How would you answer those questions? What other passages of Scripture support the truth that truly saved people will have obedient lifestyles?
5. How is the “love of God ... **perfected**” in those who say they know Jesus AND keep His word? Is that God’s love for us or our love for God?
6. What does it mean to be “**in**” Christ? (See Rom 8:11ff; 16:3, 7, 9, 10; 2 Cor 5:17; 12:2; Gal 1:22) What does the word “**abide**” mean? What is someone claiming when they say that they “abide in Him”? What does Jesus say about abiding in Him and in His words in John 15? How many other verses can you find in 1 John on abiding?
7. What does John mean when he uses the word “**walk**”? How did Jesus walk? (See Jn. 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; 17:4)
8. Spend some time evaluating how you are doing in the **Moral Test**. Is your life characterized by walking in the light? Do you freely acknowledge that you are a sinner in need of salvation that can only come through Jesus? Do you quickly confess sins after committing them and repent of them? Does your lifestyle demonstrate a love for Jesus and His Word? Do you love to learn God’s truth and defend it when others say it isn’t true? Is it obvious that you are trusting in Jesus alone, following Him wherever He leads and striving to live the way He lived? Does your moral lifestyle shout out to the world that you believe Jesus is your Savior and LORD?
9. If your lifestyle is not characterized by obedience to Jesus, it is very possible that your profession of faith in Jesus is not genuine (Tit. 1:16; Lk. 6:46; Mt. 7:22-23). Don’t be deceived. Turn from sin and trust in Jesus today as both Savior and LORD. Receive His gift of forgiveness, righteousness, and eternal life. As a new creature in Christ, follow Him in obedience to the truth and enjoy the assurance that you “know that you have come to know Him.”
10. **Memorize 1 John 2:3-6.**