

# Fellowship With Jesus

**1 John 2:3-6**

**Study #3**

**(Not entirely original with me)**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

1. A concern of John's first epistle is that we have fellowship with the Father and the Son - **1 Jn 1:3**
2. He began by stressing the basis upon which we may fellowship with **the Father (1 Jn 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 Jn 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**).

## **I. BY THIS WE KNOW THAT WE "KNOW" HIM (3-5a)**

### **A. HERE IS HOW WE CAN BE SURE WE HAVE 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 Jn 2:1-2,6**
- c. This fits in well with John's aim in this epistle - cf. **1 Jn 1:3**
  - 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 - **Jn 14:21-23; 15:10**
2. One 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 Jn 2:4b**
  - b. Is just like the one who claims to have fellowship with the Father while walking in darkness! - cf. **1 Jn 1:6**
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? - cf. **1 Jn 3:16-17**
    - 2) Is it God's love for us? - cf. **1 Jn 4:9**
    - 3) Is it our love for God? - cf. **1 Jn 5:2-3**  
-- Most likely our love for God, 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! - cf. **Jn 14:15,21,23**  
[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!]

## **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 - cf. **Jn 15:4-5**
  - 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 - cf. **Jn 8:31**
  - b. And those who are His disciples will become like their Teacher - cf. **Lk 6:40**
  - c. Such is the goal of discipleship, and of God’s scheme of redemption itself!  
- **Ro 8:29**
2. Understanding and applying this truth should have powerful ramifications in how we live

## **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 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 ? - cf. **Mt 28:18-19; Mk 16:15-16; Ac 2:38; 22:16**
  - c. How about His commands to observe **all** that He commanded, including those revealed through His apostles? - cf. **Mt 28:20; Ac 2:42; 1 Co 14:37**

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

(Material from Mark A. Copeland)

