

Finish these sentences:

We are in darkness if . . .

We are in the light if . . .

Cross reference 2:7-8 with 4:21. What is this commandment that is “new” but also “old?”

What do you think John means when he writes that this commandment is “old,” yet, on the other hand, “new?”

Read 2:9-11 and . . .

. . . describe the one who loves his brother.

. . . describe the one who hates his brother.

Looking back, what are the two primary traits of the fellowshiping Christian?

1.

2.

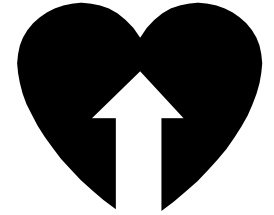
Remember – these are also tests. In other words, if we find that we aren’t obeying God and loving others consistently, the problem is we’re not fellowshiping properly. So ask yourself, “Is there evidence of **obedience** and **love** in my life to prove to others I regularly fellowship with God?” Here’s a better question – If **obeying God** and **loving others** were a crime, would there be enough evidence to convict *you*?

Essentially. . . .

. . . those who fellowship with God develop the traits of obedience and love. After all, *doing* what Jesus would do (2:3-6) and *loving* as Jesus would love (2:7-11) comes from *knowing* as much about Him as we can. Simply put, that’s fellowship!

Is There Enough Evidence To Convict?

It is clear that when we’re honest with God about sin, our fellowship with Him takes on a new meaning. But that’s not the end of the story! For those who walk in the light regularly, certain traits begin to appear – character qualities related to fellowship. John spends the remainder of the book discussing two primary traits that will develop in the life of the fellowshiping Christian. Take note, though, that these traits can also be seen as tests. If they’re not being manifested in your life, it may be clear you’re really not fellowshiping after all.



Read I John 2:1-11.

Study Questions:

I John 2:1-2 states that sin does not *have* to be a problem. Since Christ dealt with it on the cross, we have the power to either overcome it (before we sin) or gain forgiveness (after we sin). In order to fully understand Christ’s work for us in regards to sin, look up the two titles *Advocate* and *propitiation*. Write out a definition of these terms which refer to the work of Christ.

Which deals with his past work?

Which deals with his present work?

2:3 now states the obvious – since Christ *has dealt* with sin and *can still deal* with sin, those who “keep His commandments” (i.e., don’t sin) are truly the ones who know (i.e., fellowship with) God. In one word, what does 2:3 say is one primary trait of a genuine “fellowshipper?”

2:4 seems to sound a lot like a previous verse in chapter 1. Which one? Write out any similar themes in the two verses.

According to 2:4, when we lie about our obedience, what is not in us? Connect the thoughts in 2:3-5. What is “knowing Him” associated with? What is lying linked to?

How is the love of God “perfected” (i.e., completed) in us?

The word perfected in 2:5 means completed, or brought to maturity. With that in mind, what does it mean to have the “love of God perfected” in us?

How many times do you see the word “know” in 2:1-6? What does this word mean? Use a reference Bible, Bible dictionary or commentary for help.

In 2:6, John sums up his thoughts on the first trait by saying we should walk how?

What phrase in 2:6 is the key to “walking as He walked?” Write down this phrase, then read John 15:4. What is the common idea in both verses?

Based on previous studies, what is another word you could use for that phrase/idea?

As a way to give an overview to some of John’s themes . . .

. . . John 15 talks about **abiding**.

. . . I John 1 talks about **fellowship**.

. . . I John 2:3-6 talks about **knowing**.

Would you say these are essentially the same concepts? In what ways are they similar (or connected)? Write out your thoughts about the common elements in these ideas in two to three sentences.

Scan back through 2:3-6. What is the first trait of someone who is consistently walking in the light (or fellowshiping/knowing/abiding)? Write out the actual biblical phrases, and then sum them all up in your own word(s).

Read 2:7-11. What is the second character trait of someone walking in the light?