



Knowing God

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One of the repeated themes throughout 1 John is the connection between *knowing God, being “born of God”, and keeping His commands*. This theme inevitably leads into discussions about the relationship between salvation, faith, and works! Put a star next to which of the following statements describes the view you grew up with. Circle the one that best describes what you think about this topic now.

1. Good works are the way you achieve salvation.
2. Good works and faith are necessary for salvation.
3. Good works are unnecessary for salvation, all you need is faith.
4. Good works are the necessary result of saving faith.

Discuss as a group what you circled/starred and why!

Just to see how much this theme shows up in 1 John, go ahead and look up these verses and summarize your observations:

1 John 2:3-6

1 John 2:29

1 John 3:4-6

1 John 3:9-10

1 John 4:7-8

1 John 5:18

How do you reconcile these verses with John’s words in Chapter 1? ⁸ *If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.* ⁹ *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* ¹⁰ *If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word is not in us.”*

John says that keeping God’s commands is a result of being born of God. If you had to describe to someone else what it means to be “born of God” or “born again” (**John 3:3-6**), what would you say?

Have you been “born of God”? how do you know? Would anyone in the group be willing to share their experience of coming to Jesus and what it was like to be “born again”?

John says if we know God we will “keep His commands”. How do you think of God’s commands? Do you see them as a burden? Restrictions? Guidelines to be consulted?

Which commands are easy for you to keep and which are hard? [*If you’re having trouble agreeing on commands and/or coming up with them, go to **Matthew 5-7** to see Jesus give some specifics for His followers.*]

Are there any commands you are struggling to keep right now that God is reminding you of? Share with the group so you can pray for each other and hold each other accountable!

In **1 John 3:2-3** it says that when Jesus appears we will be *like Him*. How does knowing that one day you will be fully transformed to be like Jesus change your thinking about obedience now?

Pray together as a group and ask God to empower you to keep His commands with greater faithfulness this week! To live as Jesus did!