**To Know Christ**

Hope Chapel Honolulu

1 John 2:1-6

“By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him

ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”

(1 John 2:5b-6, ESV)

**Introduction**

John’s letter makes it clear to me that knowing Jesus was born of a virgin and laid in a manger as witnessed by shepherds and wise men from the East is not the same thing as knowing Christ. A closer look at this short section from John’s letter reveals that being in church may not necessarily equate to being in Christ either. After being invited to share fellowship with God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ, John then focuses his attention on teaching us how to remain in fellowship with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**1. The foundation of right relationship with God. (1 John 2:1)**

 a) The problem of sin, transgression, and iniquity.

 b) The solutions provided through the Word, Spirit and People of God.

**2. The knowledge of Christ and obedience to His commands. (1 John 2:2-3)**

a) What does it mean that Christ is the propitiation for our sins and the sins of the whole world?

 b) The importance of growing in relationship with God through trust and obedience.

**3. Knowing and abiding in Christ. (1 John 2:4-6)**

 a) Our knowledge of Christ is best evidenced by our obedience to His commands.

 b) Our relationship with Christ should be evidenced in Christ-like words, works, and relationships.

**Conclusion**

Dallas Willard, in his final public appearances, famously stated that the best evidence for someone truly following Christ is twofold: 1) that they talk with God about everything and 2) love their enemies spontaneously. While I am grateful that I am not what I used to be, I am challenged by how much more I could resemble and represent Christ based on those measurements. What do your words, works, and relationships say about your knowledge of and relationship with Christ today?

**For our prayerful study, discussion, and application:**

1) Please practice CAKE with one another. Then invite someone to share a recent experience of how they returned to joy and relationship from Enemy Mode.

2) Read 1 John 2:1-6 and share one thing the Spirit says to you through the text.

3) What is God showing and telling you and what do you need prayer for this week?

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