



Reflection and Discussion Guide - Week 4

1 John 2:3-17

And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. 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.

Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

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1. In the message, Chris mentioned five things that people tend to rely on as evidence of their Christian faith, including religious heritage, a moral lifestyle, intellectual belief, church involvement, and a past decision. Discuss why these things aren't reliable indicators of genuine faith. Have you personally relied on any of these things? If so, which ones?
 2. Discuss the four things mentioned that serve as evidence of genuine faith: love-inspired obedience (v. 3-6), love for others (v. 7-11), joy and satisfaction in God (v. 12-14), and resistance to the pattern of this world (v. 15-17). How are these characteristics different from the things that people often rely on as evidence of faith? Why is essential for us to examine ourselves to see whether we are in the faith? (2 Corinthians 13:5)