**1 John 2:3-6 (KJV)** 3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.   
4  He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.   
5  But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.   
6  He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

**1 John 2:3-6 (GW)** 3  We are sure that we know Christ if we obey his commandments.   
4  The person who says, “I know him,” but doesn't obey his commandments is a liar. The truth isn't in that person.   
5  But whoever obeys what Christ says is the kind of person in whom God's love is perfected. That's how we know we are in Christ.   
6  Those who say that they live in him must live the same way he lived.

1. John begins by saying, “3  We are sure that we know Christ if we obey his commandments.” **1 John 2:3 (GW)** 
   1. John’s opponents, the Gnostics, were saying that they knew God, - had come to know Him – through special revelations (things that were revealed only to special enlightened ones).
      1. In this, they were saying they were not bound by the concept of obedience to an old, outdated moral code and restrictive laws. They claimed a newer deeper understanding and relationship.
         1. It wasn’t based on or contingent upon them being subject to what had already been revealed in the Law of Moses and even in the natural law.
         2. Their special revelations were proof that they knew God.
      2. They demonstrated this by ignoring God’s will and breaking His laws, substituting instead their own desires and fleshly appetites, doing whatever they wished to satisfy them.
   2. In every age, there have been those who claimed to have special insight and understanding about God – knowing God, having fellowship with God, and serving Him – which deviates from revelation of God in the Bible.
      1. According to the Bible, there is only one way to really know God the Father and that is by knowing and having fellowship with the Jesus Christ, the Son. To deviate from this is to deny the authority and truth of Scripture.
      2. This has the effect is denying the authority and truth of God’s own word and replacing it with “another” of a different kind.
      3. That is exchanging the truth of God for a lie which brings God’s condemnation.
      4. John extends the concept of having fellowship with God to the idea of knowing God and having assurance that that knowledge is genuine. It is illogical to think that one individual could have true fellowship with another person if he does not genuinely know the other person on some intimate level. It is possible to claim anything if one chooses to do so.
      5. There must be other means of confirmation which reveal that an individual genuinely knows God and has a personal relationship with Him. There indeed are!
         1. John states that one way to test whether any individual’s claim of a relationship with Christ is valid is by the matter of obedience. Is that individual obedient to Christ’s commandments?
            1. John is speaking of the Ten Commandments plus all that God reveals in the Old Testament about man’s responsibilities toward God and man’s responsibilities toward his fellow man.
            2. He is also speaking about the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles in the New Testament and the greater understanding revealed about man’s responsibilities.
         2. John further emphasizes this truth by presenting the negative opposite.
            1. If a person claims to know God in a genuine, personal relationship, but does not obey His commandments, he is a liar.
            2. There is no truth of God in a person of this character.

Such a one has exchanged the truth of God for a lie.

Truth and falsehood, just as light and darkness, cannot coexist in the same.

* 1. John further points out that having a genuine relational fellowship with Christ involves changes in the life of the believer.
     1. Notice the shift from “commandments” to “word.”
        1. If there was any question of what John meant by commandment, it is now removed.
        2. The complete message of God to mankind is indicated and included.
     2. The love of God is perfected in him.
        1. Man’s love for God is a reflection of His love for us. What is clearly communicated is that love is perfected in the person who obeys God’s Word.  
           Randall House Bible Commentary Series - 1, 2, 3 John & Revelation.
        2. This would include our love for God and God’s love flowing outward from us to others.
     3. We know that we are in Him because of the transformation this relationship of love produces in us.
        1. We seek to know Him more intimately.
        2. We desire to and are concerned about fulfilling His will in our lives.
        3. Even though we stumble and fall, our desire to know Him and to serve Him causes us to persevere and continue on. This gives us assurance that God is working in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13)

6  Those who say that they live in him must live the same way he lived.

1. The conclusion is obvious. “The writer [John] can conceive of no real knowledge of God which does not issue in obedience.” Randall House Bible Commentary Series - 1, 2, 3 John & Revelation, Brooke (29)