

1 John Lesson 8 Articles

When John called us to fellowship, he called us to “**know**” Jesus. Paul uttered the same call: “I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead” (Phil. 3:10). Knowing Jesus opens the door to a present experience of resurrection power.

But how can we tell if we “know” Him?

Part of our problem is that we can be confused by different meanings of the word “know.” For instance:

- “I know *that*” means I have information.
- “I know all about bass” may be a claim that I can catch them.
- “I know Henry” may express friendship, acquaintance, or simply ability to identify a person in a crowd.
- “I know Plato” probably is a claim to understand his philosophy.
- “I know what you mean,” can even be an expression of sympathy.

What then does it mean to “know” Jesus? *The Dictionary of New Testament Theology* (Zondervan) points out that the Greek word used here, *ginosko*, means basically “**grasping the full reality and nature of an object under consideration**. It is thus distinguished from mere opinion, which may grasp the object half-correctly, inadequately, or even falsely.”

How important then, John’s promise, “We know that we ... know Him” (1 John 2:3).¹

3:20 — *For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.* Believers who, more than anything else, want to obey and please God usually have tender consciences. Sometimes those consciences can condemn us—but “The Spirit Himself bears witness ... that we are children of God” (Rom. 8:16).²

Note that Satan’s children are “religious.” Cain worshiped at an altar, and the Pharisees were the most religious people of their day. Not religion, but a true love for God and God’s children, should be the test of our devotion to God. True Christians do not hate and murder; instead, they show love and try to help others. The new nature that is implanted at the new birth is responsible for this change.³

People who claim to be born of God, but who repeatedly disobey the Word and have no desire to please God, ought to examine themselves to see if they are really born of God.⁴

¹ Richards, L., & Richards, L. O. (1987). *The teacher’s commentary* (p. 1052). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

² Stanley, C. F. (2005). *The Charles F. Stanley life principles Bible: New King James Version* (1 Jn 3:20). Nashville, TN: Nelson Bibles.

^{3 3} Wiersbe, W. W. (1992). *Wiersbe’s expository outlines on the New Testament* (p. 772; 773). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.