

BECOMING LIKE JESUS



11.05.17 | A Triad of Christlikeness (Part 1: Knowing)

1 John 2:3-11

3 We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. 4 Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did. 7 Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. 8 Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in

you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

1 John 2:3-11

9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness.

10 Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. 11 But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

Amplification: The method of John's writing style

Triad of Christlikeness:

- Knowing Jesus
- Obeying Jesus
- Loving Like Jesus

1 John 2:3-5

We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands [LOVE]. Whoever says, "I know him!" but does not do what he commands [LOVE] is a liar... but if anyone obeys [the command of LOVE], love for God is truly made complete in them.

What Were the Practices of Jesus?

- Solitude and silence
- Prayer
- Simple and sacrificial living
- Intense study and meditation upon God's word and God's ways
- Service to others, especially the poor and marginalized

“We depend on cognitive assent and affective assurances to substantiate the reality of our relationship with God. If we can't know or feel God, we customarily doubt our relationship with God. But such 'knowing' and 'feeling' restrict God to the narrow limits of our minds and sense and reduce our relationship with God to the maintenance of such feedback. The dark night of the senses begins to move us beyond such dependency to an unconditioned relationship with God.”

- M. Robert Mulholland, *Invitation to a Journey*

Job 13:15

“Though he slay me, yet I will hope in him.”

“We should not fix our desires on health or sickness, wealth or poverty, success or failure, a long life or short one. For everything has the potential of calling forth in us a deeper response to our life with God.”

- St. Ignatius