

Bible Study Questions
Authentic Christianity

READ 1 John 2:3-27

1. Are there any things that strike, intrigue, or puzzle you? Discuss ...
2. According to verse 3, how can we know that we truly know God?
 - a. What do you think John is referring to by “his commandments” in verses 3 and 4; and “his word” in verse 5? Is this the same thing as “walking in the same way in which he walked” (verse 5)?
 - b. Do you think John expects us to be perfectly obedient? What light does verse 1 shed on this question?
3. In verse 9, John speaks of those who claim to be “in the light,” but are actually still “in darkness.”
 - a. What does John mean when he refers to walking in the light (or in the darkness)?
 - b. What do you think John is referring to when he speaks in verses 7-8 of the old commandment that is also a new commandment? What light do verses 9-11 shed on this? [see also John 13:34]
 - c. According to these verses, what is the sign that someone who claims to be walking in the light is in fact still walking in darkness?
 - d. How do verses 15-17 fit with the verses that have gone before?
4. In verse 24, John speaks of something we must do to ensure that we “abide in the Son and in the Father.” What is it that we must do?
 - a. In verses 18 and following, John speaks of the “antichrist.” When you hear that term, what images does it conjure in your mind?
 - b. How does John define the term, in verse 22? Who does John apply that term to in verses 18-19?
 - c. By contrast, how does he describe the members of the church in verse 20?
 - d. In verse 20, John says that the true members of the church “have knowledge” – presumably as opposed to believing the lies told by those who are trying to deceive them (v. 26). Where does their knowledge come from – in this verse, and in verse 24?
5. John has provided us with three characteristics of the authentic Christian: they obey and follow Jesus; they love their brothers and sisters in the church; they hold to the truth. Are any of these more important than the others? Can you have one without the others? Have you ever met somebody who stressed one at the expense of the others?
6. Are you saved by working at doing these three things? If not, how should we think about these characteristics of authentic Christianity?
7. Are you comforted by this passage? Do you read what John says and find reassurance that these things describe you and your life? Or are you challenged by this? If so, what do you need to do about it?