



Gospel of Grace
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1 John 2:5-6

Christian Assurance and Obedience

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Obedience and Christian Love

1John 2:5a (NASB)
but **whoever keeps His word**, in him the love of God has truly been **perfected**. . .

- “but” makes a contrast with 1Jn 2:4
- “Keep” is the same as 1Jn 2:3
- “His word” and “His commandments” (vs 3) are synonymously parallel
- “perfected” is in the perfect passive (a divine passive) i.e. “by God” (1John 4:10-12)

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Christian Assurance

1John 2:5b (NASB)
...**By this we know** that we are in Him:

- “by this we know” forms an inclusio with 1Jn 2:3
- “In Him” is our status as believers, not the attainment of a few elite
- Christian assurance comes in degrees and is not absolute
- John identifies several components of assurance

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Abiding and Walking

1John 2:6 (NASB)

the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked

- “The one who says” is John’s way of identifying false teachers and their teachings
- “Abides” is thematic in John’s writings
- “Ought” implies moral obligation
- “As He walked” is the Incarnate Christ’s life

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Implications and Applications

- Christian love includes moral obligation
- Christian assurance must be grounded in objective truth
- We must identify the communicable attributes of God
- Abiding in Christ means holding fast to his Word

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Love and Morals Are Not Incompatible

John 14:15, 21a (NASB)

If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father...

- Liberalism often places one against the other
- True Christians cherish Jesus’ words
- These include the teachings of His apostles

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Christian Assurance and Objective Truth

Hebrews 11:1 (ESV)

Now **faith is the assurance** of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

- Christian assurance is grounded in the promises of God
- We love, obey and abide because we believe His promises
- Hebrews 11 is filled with examples of people who received promises, believed, and took action

Christian Assurance and Doubt

Hebrews 10:36, 39 (ESV)

For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive **what is promised**. . . . But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of **those who have faith** and preserve their souls.

- We may ask, “what if I fail” (2Tim 2:13; Mk 9:24)
- Vss 37, 38 warn against “shrinking back” (apostasy)
- But true Christians keep believing God’s promises and do not give up hope and obedience

The Communicable Attributes of God

Ephesians 5:1 (NASB)

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;

- We cannot imitate attributes such as omnipotence and omnipresence (incommunicable attributes)
- We can practice such things as love, goodness, patience, kindness and faithfulness
- Christ is our example (1Peter 2:21)

Abiding in Christ

John 15:5a (NASB)

I am the vine, you are the branches; he who **abides in Me** and I in him, he bears much fruit,

2John 1:9 (NASB)

Anyone who **goes too far** and **does not abide in the teaching of Christ**, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son

- "Abide" means "stay put"
- The relational and theological must go together

