



One of the things that caused insecurity among the believers was a church **split** based on a wrong view of Jesus. 1 John 2:19

A second thing that forced the question of assurance in the church is what these false teachers who left were **saying**.
(1 John 1:6; 1:10; 2:4; 2:6; 2:9; 4:20)

1 John 3:7 - What you **do** is a test of what you **are**.

The false teachers said you can enjoy the assurance of standing sinless before God in righteousness even if you **disobey** God's commands and **hate** your brother. That's why we have 1 John 2:3-11.

The depth and reality of a man's fellowship with God can be tested in two areas: his **obedience** to God's commands and his **fellowship** with his fellow man.

John's not talking about how you can be saved, but how you can know that you're saved, what the signs of **assurance** are.

Verses 3-6

"*obey His commands*" refers to more than just **outward** observance of the letter of the law. It is defined by a sympathetic obedience to the spirit of the law as well, an **inward** delight and cherishing of what God says.

Moral test: that you **keep His word**. You live in His will. You fail from time to time of course, but generally speaking you have a greatly dominating desire in your heart to please the Lord.

The force of what John is saying is the goal and aim of God's love is that you would do His will and obey His commands, that His word would be in your heart so that His **love** comes down from heaven and **channels** through you to those around you.

Verses 7-11

The command John is referring to here is clearly to **love your brother**.

If you profess with your mouth to know Christ and walk in the light but you **hate** your brother, that is a sure sign that you are "*still in the darkness*."

Literally "*still in the darkness*" means that that man continues to be what he has **always been**: unconverted, without the life of God in him. Hatred is a sign and characteristic of our natural sin nature outside of Christ.

Social test: that you **love** your brother.

"*nothing in him to make him stumble*" – literally is "there is no **cause** for stumbling in him"

- If you consistently pass the doctrinal test, moral test, and social test, there is less of a chance of **you** stumbling into sin and backsliding than someone else who fails all those tests.
- If you consistently pass those tests, you're not going to be a stumbling block to **others** either.

The challenge for us today is *verse 6*: Want assurance of your salvation and the joy that comes with it? Want to claim the name of Jesus over your life? Then walk as **Jesus walked**.

How did Jesus walk?

Jesus walked by **faith**, in the **Word**, in **prayer**, and in good **works**.

The purpose of the Church in John's day and in ours, the purpose of the individual Christian, is to exhibit the **real presence** of Jesus Christ in this world. And that is done by obedience and love.

When it comes to our **assurance** of salvation, the doctrinal test is believing in the historical eternal real Jesus Christ and who He claimed to be, the moral test is obeying His Word, the social test is loving our brother. And it can all be summed up in **Christlikeness**: walking like Jesus walked.

*How **like** the Lord Jesus Christ are you today?*