



If you had to describe your Christian living in the last week,

report on your walk with Jesus,
your discipleship,
in terms of a weather report,
what would you say:

- a) dark and stormy?
- b) bright and cloudless?
- c) partly cloudy?
- d) dull and overcast?
- e) sun showers?

How do you know you're a genuine Christian?

1st letter of John chapter 2 verses 3-11

3 And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. **4** If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. **5** But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. **6** Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

7 Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment—to love one another—is the same message you heard before. **8** Yet it is also new. Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, and you also are living it. For the darkness is disappearing, and the true light is already shining. **9** If anyone claims, “I am living in the light,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is still living in darkness. **10** Anyone who loves a fellow believer is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble. **11** But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness.

How do you know you are a genuine/authentic Christian?

Obedience is the key – v3

John has three “tests” or criteria:

- (1) Whoever claims: I know God (v4)
but doesn't obey his commands, is a liar.**
- (2) Whoever says: I abide in/live in God (v6)
should live their life as Jesus did.**
- (3) Whoever claims: I am in/living in the light (v9)
but hates his fellow believer lives in the
darkness.**

**(1) Whoever claims: I know God (v4)
but doesn't obey his commands, is a liar.**

Gnosticism

Obedience to God's word and teaching is the evidence of knowing God.

**(2) Whoever says: I abide in/live in God (v6)
should live their life as Jesus did.**

Obedience to Jesus' way of life especially expressing a love of Jesus' quality.

(3) Whoever claims: I am in/living in the light (v9) but hates his fellow believer lives in the darkness.

Obedience to loving one another,
especially the unlovely.

What does all this mean for us?

1. Do some church leaders avoid the call to obedience?
2. Do some church leaders abuse the call to obey?
3. What if we disobey?
4. What does the absolute command to love really mean?
 - i) Does this ban disagreement, anger, critique?
 - ii) This is a call to reconciliation.
 - iii) Does not mean being naïve about those who hurt us.

**What is one specific way that these
verses prod you to improve your
relationship with God?
With others?**

How will you try to do so this week?