

Back to Basics
Walking in Love
1 John 2:3-6

Introduction

A group called the Gnostics were what John calls false teachers who claimed to "know God" because they possessed secret knowledge and had dramatic spiritual experiences. Their teaching confused and unsettled the early Christians.

1. The Gnostics claimed to know God through _____ knowledge and dramatic spiritual experience.
2. John says knowing God is deepened by walking in the _____.
3. Walking in the light means believing in God and accepting God's _____ for your life.
4. It is acknowledging that God is morally righteous and agreeing that you need God's moral _____ in your life.
5. It is being honest with God and yourself about your sin and humbly receiving God's _____ through Jesus' atoning death.
6. John also claims that knowing God is also deepened by walking in _____.
7. Knowing God means keeping God's commandments and walking in the same manner that _____ walked.
8. The commandment John refers to is often called the _____ Commandment.

I. A Commandment of Love

9. God revealed the _____ to love one another in the Old Testament.
10. Jesus placed a new emphasis on love by teaching that the love commandments _____ all the rest of God's commandments.
11. The reason why God prohibits sinful attitudes and behaviors is that they are _____.
12. If you keep all the negative commands but can't keep the positive ones, you aren't only attempting fulfilling God's _____.
13. Jesus demonstrates His _____ by laying down his life to pay for our sins.
14. Then He calls on us to lay down our lives in _____ ways to meet others' needs.
15. Agape love gives _____ to meet a person's needs, whether it's material resources, direction, correction, or encouragement.

II. A Call To Love

16. Love motivates us to _____ and help others of different races, ethnic backgrounds, cultural tastes, and social ranks.
17. Agape love extends to those who mistreat us and even call us _____.
18. John tells us that Jesus not only showed the world this true Love; he can also live *in you* and enable you to show it to _____.

19. Jesus wants to live in your heart through his _____.
20. The Holy Spirit imparts a _____ motivation for us to love others the way he loves us.
21. If you truly love Jesus, then his Spirit will _____ you.
22. Only the Holy Spirit can quench our _____ for God's love and fill our hearts with love for others.

III. A Bond of Love

23. Loving others the way Jesus loved you is _____ that you know God because only God's Spirit empowers us to love this way.
24. John tells us that loving others leads to greater _____ with God.
25. He draws a connection between loving others and experiencing God's _____ in your life in verse 9.
26. The way back to God's guidance is to _____ this sin and turn back to God.
27. John says there's a definite correlation between loving others and experiencing assurance and _____ in your life.
28. He is *not* saying that we _____ God's acceptance by loving others.
29. When your _____ is aligned with God's, you always feel closer to God.

30. When _____ arise, or others tell us we don't know God, God's love will assure us our heart is like His heart as we allow Him to love others through us.

31. Nothing will rob you of assurance and peace in your relationship with God more than living _____.

Conclusion

32. John also draws a connection between loving others and having a confident _____ life.

33. When we follow God's guidance to love others, we _____ for the resources we need to love the people God is putting into our life.

34. God answers our prayers because they _____ to his will.

As we experience answered prayer, our confidence in praying to God grows. If you're trying to get God to help the universe revolve around you instead of aligning your heart to follow God to love people, God won't reinforce your selfishness by answering your prayer. God promises to take care of our needs when we commit to walk in His light and live in His love.

Answers

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| 1. Special | 12. Law | 23. Evidence |
| 2. Light | 13. Love | 24. Closeness |
| 3. Truth | 14. Practical | 25. Guidance |
| 4. Leadership | 15. Motivation | 26. Confess |
| 5. Forgiveness | 16. Accept | 27. Peace |
| 6. Love | 17. Enemies | 28. Earn |
| 7. Jesus | 18. Others | 29. Heart |
| 8. Great | 19. Spirit | 30. Doubts |
| 9. Command | 20. Supernatural | 31. selfishly |
| 10. Fulfills | 21. Indwell | |
| 11. Unloving | 22. Thirst | |