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Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
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The Reality of Knowing God

1 John 2:3-14

Series: Reality Check – (re)Aligning Our Lives to the Way of Jesus

Central Passages

1 John 2:3–11 (ESV) — **3** And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. **4** Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, **5** but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: **6** whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. **7** Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. **8** At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. **9** Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. **10** Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. **11** But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

Central Thought: The proof that we “know God” is shown in lives that look like Jesus.

- ❖ Jesus perfectly obeyed and completely fulfilled the commands of God.

Matthew 5:17 (ESV) — **17** “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

1 Peter 2:22 (ESV) — **22** He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

- ❖ The goal of all God’s commands is love – love for God and love of Neighbor.

Matthew 22:34–40 (ESV) — **34** But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. **35** And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. **36** “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” **37** And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. **38** This is the great and first commandment. **39** And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. **40** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

- ❖ Christ-like, co-suffering love is the path to and the proof of our knowledge of God.

John 15:9–13 (ESV) — **9** As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. **10** If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. **11** These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. **12** “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

Ephesians 5:1–2 (ESV) — **1** Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. **2** And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

1 Peter 2:21–25 (ESV) — **21** For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. **22** He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. **23** When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. **24** He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. **25** For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.