




# Connect

When you were younger, did you hide your mess from your parents or others? For example, did you ever hide your laundry under your bed or throw everything into a drawer or closet? How did it feel when someone tried to look there? How did it feel when you finally cleaned it?

# Verses - 1 John 2:3-11 (CSB)

**READ ALOUD:**

3 This is how we know that we know him: if we keep his commands. 4 The one who says, "I have come to know him," and yet doesn't keep his commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps his word, truly in him the love of God is made complete. This is how we know we are in him: 6 The one who says he remains in him should walk just as he walked.

7 Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old command that you have had from the beginning. The old command is the word you have heard. 8 Yet I am writing you a new command, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. 9 The one who says he is in the light but hates his brother or sister is in the darkness until now. 10 The one who loves his brother or sister remains in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. 11 But the one who hates his brother or sister is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and doesn't know where he's going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

**Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?**

# Study

**Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:**

1. The Test of Obedience (vv.3-5): What does John establish as the primary way to "know that we know him" (v.3)? Conversely, what is the state of the person who claims to know Him but doesn't keep His commands (v.4)?

2. The Test of Imitation (v.6): John states that whoever says he "remains in him" must "walk just as he walked" (v.6). Based on this, what is the way of a disciple of Jesus, and why is this essential to remaining in Him?

3. The Old and New Command (vv.7-8): John calls the command to walk as Jesus walked both an "old command" (v.7) and a "new command" (v.8). In what way is this command old, and in what way is it new?

4. The Test of Love (vv.9-11): The passage concludes by contrasting the one who loves his brother or sister with the one who hates them. What is the fundamental difference in the spiritual condition (light vs. darkness) and the practical outcome (cause for stumbling vs. blindness) between these two individuals?

# Share

**Discuss 1:**
Pastor Takeshi warned against wearing a "costume of Jesus" only to let hatred or indifference show toward inconvenient believers underneath. How does John use the contrast of light versus darkness to show that your treatment of fellow Christians reveals your true spiritual condition?

**Discuss 2:**
Pastor Takeshi asked us to ask ourselves: What is the goal I have for my life? The goal I have for going to work? Or the goal I have for coming to church? Is it: “to be the person God wants me to be.” Or is it something else? How would you answer?

**Minister to one another through sharing specific prayer requests.**