

Do you know Jesus?

-- 7/19/09, Sun Valley, tp

"And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments." (1 **John 2:4**) The apostle John hammers home the absurdity of claiming to know Jesus and at the same time ignoring His royal orders. Again he says, *"Whoever knows God listens to us."* (4:6) Otherwise, John calls men liars who claim to know Jesus and don't show it by their loyal obedience. We can read the first orders He gave in **Matthew 5-7**. Jesus foresaw that He would order some to depart from Him saying He never knew them because they were workers of lawlessness. (7:23)

We could say that if you don't treat others with the same kindness that you would want from them, you don't know Jesus. (7:12) Loving your neighbor as yourself, according to Jesus, extends to our enemies as well. (5:44) Jesus would not insult His brother calling him a fool (5:22); would you?

By the same token, if you are willing to feast with your eyes on the beauty of other men's wives, you don't know Jesus. (5:28) You may praise Him with your lips but He does not want your words. He wants your loyalty of heart. If you are tired of putting up with your imperfect spouse, remember: Jesus does not approve of divorce. (5:32) If you don't think like He thinks, you can tell the whole you love Jesus and you accepted Him as your saviour, but He says He does not know you.

When your blood boils over some insult and you are ready to defend your honor with an angry punch or hurtful barb, remember: Jesus commands that we turn the other cheek. (5:39) If you cannot let your personal feelings die with the sunset (**Ephesians 4:26**), you still have not accepted Jesus. Jesus has a code to live by and He never said it would be easy. The way is hard that leads to life. (7:14) If you hunger for the approval of people and pray or give so that they may see what a good person you are, Jesus demands that you adjust your attitude and customs of service. (6:1-6) If you know Jesus, you are a giving person especially when only God can know what you have done.

One of the most astounding commands of Jesus concerns money. (6:19-34) If the cause of Christ and His kingdom is not first and more important than worrying over food and clothing, we don't know Jesus. Have you truly accepted Jesus as your Lord? IF you have not considered the commands of the Lord, they are good. They will make you free. tp