



What You Say; What You Do

By Jeff Bedwell on October 13, 2022

TODAY'S READING: 1 John 2

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "What you do speaks so loudly I cannot hear what you are saying." We often say our actions speak louder than our words. When evaluating ourselves or another person, wise people have learned not to just listen to what people say (including ourselves) but to watch what people actually do.

In this chapter, John uses the phrase three times, "Whoever says" (vv, 4,6,9). Each of these statements presents a potential contrast between what someone says and what they actually do. They can also serve as a good point of Holy Spirit guided reflection and evaluation in each of our lives personally.

- Is my life truly marked by a growing obedience to Jesus Christ? Am I picking and choosing what commandments of scripture I choose to obey or am I increasingly becoming a person who obeys all of the commandments of God immediately and completely? (vv. 3-5)
- God works within us to conform us to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29), so that we become more and more like our Savior. The only way to do this is by *abiding in Christ* (John will use this Greek term 23 times in this letter; Jesus calls us to abide in Him in John 15). This is the idea of continuing in Christ, continuing to trust, follow and depend upon Him. The proof of this is in how we walk. "*whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked*" (1 John 2:6, ESV). Am I walking as Jesus walked? Does my life increasingly reflect the life of Jesus Christ? Is the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) increasingly manifested in my life?
- "*Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness*" (1 John 2:9, ESV). The proof of our new life in Jesus Christ is love – a love for God and a love for others (see Jesus words in Matthew 22:37-39 – The Great Commandment). Is my life marked by a Christ-like love? This does not guarantee I will have warm feelings towards everyone or that everyone will be happy with how I love them. We recognize that genuine love has both a tough and a tender side. The question is: Am I acting in love? Am I genuinely seeking and doing the best for another?

Spend some time today with these verses and these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas of needed growth and development. Look to Christ and the enabling power of the Holy Spirit to abide in Christ, obey God, live as Jesus lived and love as Jesus loved.

PRAYER: Father, search me and change me. Help my life reflect the life, light and love of Jesus Christ more and more.

TOMORROW'S READING: 1 John 3

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