

# 1 John 3:14 – 4:6

*New American Standard Version*

**Underline John’s uses of “know.” What is known, how is it known, and why does it matter?**

<sup>14</sup>We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. <sup>15</sup>Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. <sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. <sup>17</sup>But whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? <sup>18</sup>Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. <sup>19</sup>We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him <sup>20</sup>in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; <sup>22</sup>and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight. <sup>23</sup>This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son

Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. <sup>24</sup>The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. <sup>41</sup>Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; <sup>3</sup>and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. <sup>4</sup>You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world; therefore they speak *as* from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

We know/you know: <b>What do we know?</b>	Evidence: <b>How do we know?</b>	Consequences: <b>So what?</b>

**Additional questions for thought and discussion:**

- Why does John repeatedly affirm the knowledge we already have? What might the deceivers and false teachers have been promoting?
- Is John’s distinction between “we know” and “you know” (3:15, 4:2) significant? Or is John merely using variety in his writing style?
- Is there any limitation or qualification to the “whatever we ask” (3:22) in this context?
- Of what practical use is the knowledge John describes in this passage?
- Most translations render the test in 4:2 as “Jesus Christ has come in the flesh” (perfect tense; ESV, HCSB, NASB, NIV, NKJV, RSV, etc.). What is the difference between that translation and a simple past tense, as “Jesus Christ came in the flesh”? What do the spirits need to confess?

**Inductive Bible Study**

(A few general ideas)

**Observation**  
**(What does it say?)**

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

**Interpretation**  
**(What does it mean?)**

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

**Application**  
**(What does it mean for me?)**

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.  
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**