

SERIES TITLE: DEEPER

PART THREE: DEEP KNOWLEDGE

TEXT: 1 JOHN 2:3-11

INTRODUCTION.

The series' theme comes from 1 John 2:24, "If what you heard from the beginning lives deeply in you, you will live deeply in both Son and Father." [The Message] We all want to be deep. We want something lasting, substantive, and profound. This study of 1 John calls us to deeply root ourselves in Jesus, in order to thrive in a fallen world.

DISCUSSION.

What is the difference between knowing someone with passing familiarity and knowing someone through intimate experience?

EXAMINATION.

2:1-6 When John talks about "we" to whom is he referring?

Isn't it unloving for John to use such strong language and call someone a "liar"? Why or why not?

What do you think it means for God's love to be made complete or perfect? (compare other places that word is used: 2 Cor. 12:9; Heb. 10:14; James 2:22; 1 John 4:17-18)

2:7-11 In what way is this not a new commandment but an old one (v.7); yet at the same time John says it is a new command (v.8)? What does he mean by that?

Although hate is a word that can include violence and even murder, John's concern about Christians hating each other can involve much less extreme behavior. (consider Luke 6:22; Luke 14:26; John 3:20; John 12:25) Based on these passages, what might hating other Christians look like?

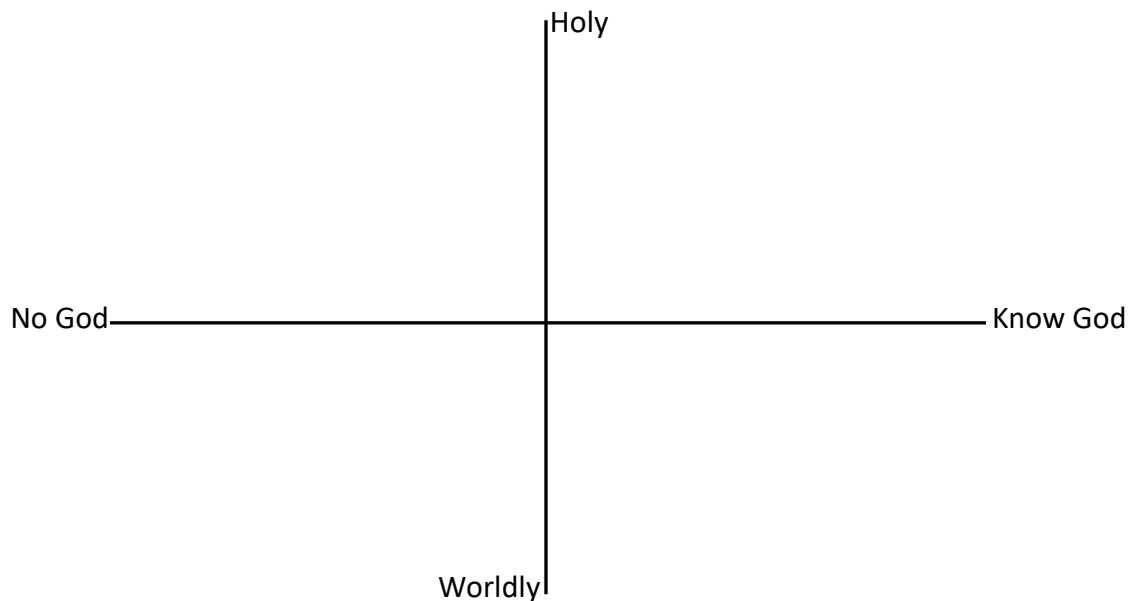
Why does John equate love with living in the light, and how does that relate to not stumbling?

APPLICATION.

- Which of the two signs of knowing God do you find most challenging and why?

1) Obeying His Commands? 2) Loving His People?

- What does it look like to “walk as Jesus did”?
- Are there any parts of your job, or parenting, or daily life that you find it difficult to know what Jesus would do? Why?
- Why would loving others require choosing to be connected to others rather than isolated from them?
- Why does loving others require selflessness rather than self-centeredness?
- Why does loving others require choosing action over sentimentalism?
- Where would you place yourself on this chart?



- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?