

# Southwest Life Groups

A Place to Belong...A Place to Transform

March 23, 2008

**Focus:** To explore the spiritual litmus tests we use while see what John says Christ's is.

## I John - Lesson #4 Obedience: The Litmus Test

**Introduction:** In many churches today two different groups represent two different views of spirituality. (I understand this is an overstatement, but I do see it often.) Both groups love God and seek to serve him, but they go about it in vastly different ways.

### Generalizations of these two groups:

1. **Intellectual**...this group believes that the more knowledge you have of God, the closer you are to him. The Bible is a book to be dissected and to be known. Church is a place to meet with like minds and dig for more. These people love God by “knowing” more and more about Him.
2. **Emotional**...this group does not actively seek more knowledge...in fact, many don't know the Bible well at all. What they want is a connection with the living God. They want to have an experience where they “feel” better with God, themselves, and their situations. They believe God changes them in these moments, and they seek more transformation as they seek these experiences.
  - Compare and contrast these two ideas of seeking God.
  - Evaluate the positives and negatives of both.
  - Is either of these ideas “right?”

**Text:** 1 John 2:3-6...As we read this letter John wrote we continue to dive into the history in which it was written. In the 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries before Christ the Greek minds were much like what we described in #1 above. In the actual time of Christ the Greek culture was found to be more like #2. John is still trying to offer a different view of what running after God looks like.

- Read 1:1-2:6
- Share your general observations.
- What is John's litmus test for those trying to connect with God?
- Decide what John is saying to these two schools of thought we have discussed.

### Application:

- Describe the spiritual litmus test you use (consciously or not) for you and others.
- What does it mean to you to, “obey his word.”
- Define what we would look like if we were to walk as Jesus walked.
- End by dreaming tonight about God's love being complete in us as a group. What does that look like?

