

# The Challenge of Christian Consistency

## 1. Introduction – A reponse to issues:

- the Sin (hamartia) problem
  - the Knowledge (gnosis) problem
- Knowledge of God: How do people come to “know” God?
- **the intellectual** – ancient Greeks believed they could know God through intellectual reasoning and argument
  - **the emotional** – New Testament Greeks sought to find God through emotional experience
  - **the revelation** – Jewish thought, which was close to Christianity, said that knowledge of God came through revelation.
  - Some people around John’s church disconnected knowledge of God and life. John challenges that.

## 2. The “Running” Commentary:

v.3 “know” refers to relationship

- there is relationship between knowledge and obedience.
- obedience flows out of knowledge.

v.4 - the repetition of “the one who says” means that someone is actually saying that. There is inconsistency between the profession and the practice. Jesus denounces inconsistency (*Luke 6:46*)

- “keeping the commands” is not a statement about sinlessness or perfection (see 1:8,9,10). It is a statement about our “leaning”.

v.5 – “love of God” may mean “love for God”. Our love for God matures as we obey his word. There is a deepening of the intimacy between us and God.

v.6 - knowledge of God leads to a life of discipleship.

- It is viewed as “imitation”. Obedience is not reduced to the adherence of a legal code.

- It is about “imitation” (see Mark 1:16-18; John 13:15)