



[John 17:3](#)

(3) Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

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In [John 17:3](#), [Jesus](#) describes [eternal life](#) as knowing [God](#). "Know" does not indicate a mere casual familiarity, but a very close relationship approaching the intimacy of a sexual one. That is how we must relate to Him.

There are other verses that show that God "knows" us:

- » [1 Corinthians 8:3](#): "But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him."
- » [Galatians 4:9](#): "But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?"
- » [Amos 3:2](#): "You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities." Though God says this to Israel, it applies even more intimately to the [Israel of God](#) ([Galatians 6:16](#)).

These verses again show a vital key to understanding our relationship with Him: Our [love](#) for Him is merely a response to His initiative.

By way of contrast, compare these to what Jesus says to those who are not called as their disobedience shows, but who masquerade as disciples, even as ministers, as if they really knew the Father and Son:

Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord," shall enter the [kingdom of heaven](#). Many will say to Me in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?" And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you;

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depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!" ([Matthew 7:21-23](#))

Since He never knew them, is this not just another way of saying, "I never loved you"?

We are who we are, the foolish and weak of [the world](#). We believe because God has appointed us to eternal life. We have [faith](#) because of His [grace](#), and the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts because the Father loves us. If we understand the Scriptures correctly, God has chosen the most unlikely people upon which to pour out His grace and love and so become holy and without blame before Him.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:
[The Sovereignty of God: Part Seven](#)

Related Topics:

[God's Calling](#)

[Intimacy with God](#)

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