

Know What's Real - Lifestyle

1 John 2:1 (NKJV)

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous

As John writes this, remember he is pretty old, he is the last living of the 12 disciples. He has poured into a lot of people and churches AND he has the authority as one who has seen Jesus, heard Jesus, touched Jesus, who can basically let the church have it.

But look at how he starts this passage out...

My little children

- He could have started harshly but he started with love
- At the beginning of this series I made the statement that John probably understood the love of God more than anyone. He experienced it but he also "got it". Here I believe he shows it
- He shows us the heart of God
- My little children - shows how John sees the people of God....as children....people he has raised up, poured his life into, people he has great love and affection toward

Here John shows us something from God's very character.....He reminds us who we are before he tells us what to do

You work from your identity. Because you are God's children.....do this...

Today there are some of you that need to hear that. If you place your faith in Jesus....you are a child of God. No matter what you do, He loves you. He will always love you. He will always receive you if you come to Him. He loves you with a Fatherly love, one that is just and perfect.

God wants you to know that BEFORE you hear anything else because anything else that He has for you flows out of that love.

these things I write to you, so that you may not sin

- this is our goal as children of God, right? We strive to NOT sin. It's the goal. Sin is in opposition to God, our goal is to live by His Spirit, in unity with God.
- You are not powerless against sin!
- Sin CAN be conquered through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:21 (NKJV)

And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people **from** their sins.”

Romans 6:12-14 (NKJV)

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

See righteousness should always be our goal. Not self righteousness but denying sin and living by the Spirit as He shapes us more and more like Jesus.

And if anyone sins - our goal is not to sin but we will sin.

I maintain that we CAN live a sinless life if we could only fully surrender to God in every moment of every day. It's possible because anything is possible with God, and I believe that the Holy Spirit is powerful enough if only we could tap into the fullness of what God has for us.

This kind of preaching is not popular but it's the truth. God wants you to be holy as He is holy. He wants you to be sinless.....but.....if anyone sins...and we will....

Sin is anything that goes against the Word of God (scriptures), the Will of God (that's not what God wants us to do), or the Way of God (that's not how Jesus lived)

we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous

First of all.....Jesus is righteous. He is faultless, guiltless, sinless. As a man on this earth, He fully kept all of the Father's commands and because of that, He is approved of by the Father. His reputation is not only good but perfect.

So when you look at His reputation with the Father, there is literally no one better to defend you. He is your Advocate. This means He's your Helper, your Defender.

Why do we need an Advocate?

Revelation 12:10 (NKJV)

Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

We don't fully know what access satan has to the Father but we know he does have some and that when he gets access.....he accuses God's children of wrongdoing.

- We know he did it before Jesus walked the earth (Job).

Job 1:6-7 (NKJV)

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. 7 And the Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?"

So Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

- We know he did it when Jesus walked the earth (Peter)

Luke 22:31-32 (NKJV)

And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

As Satan accuses us before the Father, he condemns us. He lays out our sin. He declares us guilty and deserving of punishment.

But Jesus.....as He stands in as our Advocate. Not only does He declare us innocent.....He declares that He already paid the penalty for any sins we have committed.

See Jesus is not just there for sympathy. He's not just there because we need a hug. He is there because His presence declares us an acquittal. We get full release from our debt. We get full release from the enemy's accusations. We get full release from condemnation.

He says to us like He did to the woman who committed adultery....

John 8:10-11 (NKJV)

When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?"

11 She said, "No one, Lord."

And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

Know that while the goal is to sin no more....Jesus is your Advocate when you do. He understands what you are going through and wants to help you overcome it!

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NKJV)

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we

are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

When you sin, go boldly.....you go boldly because it's a throne of grace. It's not a going boldly because you are somebody or you are carefree about your sin. You go boldly because you know grace will meet you there.

And when you get there you will obtain mercy (not giving you what you do deserve) and you will find grace (something you don't deserve) in your time of need!

1 John 2:2 (NKJV)

And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

Propitiation - this is appeasement or satisfaction

Isaiah 53:10a (NKJV)

Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him;
He has put Him to grief.

It's not that the Father is cruel. He didn't delight in Jesus' pain and suffering. What pleased God is the payment for our sins.

The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross satisfied the demands of God's holiness for the punishment of sin. So Jesus propitiated or satisfied the Father.

The death of Jesus Christ, in our place, for our sins.

- God is holy, we are sinful (Lev 19:2)
- God hates sin (Prov 6:6-9) - God loves people, hates sin. How does He deal with sin without destroying the people He loves?
- Our sin arouses God's wrath
- Jesus propitiated (satisfied) the wrath of God

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Thank you Jesus!

1 John 2:3-6 (NKJV)

Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

You can't meet Jesus and not change.

Yes there is much more to be changed....that's why you walk with Him! A Christian is not perfect in this life but you have progress in this life.

We need to celebrate and encourage progress.

You can't meet Jesus and not change.

We don't use this to look at other people's lives and judge them but to look at our own. Have you met Jesus? If so, what has changed about your life? What is currently changing?

The more you walk with Jesus, the more you look like Jesus.

When you hear the word "walk" in the bible it's speaking of a lifestyle...

There are a couple of important truths to cling to in order to walk with Jesus

- He is alive. Right now.
- He gave us the Holy Spirit and His presence is literally with us.

So we read the bible to hear from Him. We pray to talk to Him. We gather with God's people to hear what God is teaching them so we can share and grow together as the family of God. (God's children)

Walking with Jesus.....this is the answer to sin. We don't dwell on, obsess over, how do I get rid of sin. We walk with Jesus who leads us away from sin....invite Him into that place of sin.

He died for it. Let Him lead you out of it and into something else....

1 John 2:7-11 (NKJV)

Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. 8 Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. 9 He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. 10 He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. 11 But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

Beloved - you are loved

He's not telling us anything new.

Lip Service - I belong to Jesus but I walk in darkness, and I hate people or someone

Lifestyle - I say I'm a Christian and I walk with Jesus, and I live in the light, and I love people

Love God, Love people.

Relationships between Christians - love, forgive, walk with them

We love because He loves

We forgive because He forgives

We walk with them because He walks with us

We don't pour out wrath on people, it was already poured out on Jesus

We love because He first loved us....

The true light is already shining. If you get what Jesus has done for you, walk in it. Choose lifestyle over lip service. Choose to be doers of the Word. Choose to love when everything in you wants to hate.

If you are part of the family, you should resemble the Father. What do you look like?