

## I John 2:1-17

<sup>1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup>and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of* the whole world. **1 John 2:1-2 NASB**

- John is writing the words of this letter (**I John**) to the churches so that people would have help in not sinning and help when they messed up and did sin.
  - John speaks here as a spiritual father, one of the original 12 apostles...He calls them 'little children'.
  - He talks to them about dealing with sin and points them to Jesus, our counselor, comforter, defender.

<sup>16</sup> I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; <sup>17</sup>*that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. **John 14:16-17 NASB**

- The Holy Spirit is the 'other Advocate' and He leads us into all truth.
- Jesus Himself is the propitiation for our sins and everyone's sins.
- This is NOT universalism.
- Propitiation: the satisfaction...the only acceptable sacrifice...the only means of removing the wrath of God.

<sup>1</sup>And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. <sup>3</sup>Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. **Ephesians 2:1-3 NASB**

He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him. **John 3:36 NASB**

<sup>1</sup>You are my dear children, and I write these things to you so that you won't sin. But if anyone does sin, we continually have a forgiving Redeemer who is face-to-face with the

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Father: Christ, the Righteous One. <sup>2</sup>He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. **I John 2:1-2 The Passion Translation**

When Satan tempts me to despair,  
And tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look, and see him there,  
Who made an end of all my sin.

Because the sinless Saviour died,  
My sinful soul is counted free;  
For God, the just, is satisfied,  
To look on him and pardon me.

**C.L. Bancroft**

- His forgiveness covers our past, regardless of what it may have been. His holiness, and our walking in the light, walking in the Spirit now empowers us to see His likeness increasingly shape our future.
- As the righteous judge, God forgives everyone who comes in to a right relationship with Him.
- Because He is righteous, He communicates His nature to everyone who is united with Him in His Son.

For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. **2 Peter 1:4 NASB**

- We are in Him and He is in us...His life, gracing us to live according to His word and His will.

<sup>3</sup>By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. <sup>4</sup>The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; <sup>5</sup>but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: <sup>6</sup>the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked. **I John 2:3-6 NASB**

Sinless Perfection in this life is only possible if we seriously redefine sin.

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- It is direction, not perfection that determines the genuineness of our faith.
  - People who are Christians have these three things in common:
    - They know who Jesus is (it is personal).
    - They trust what He did for them.
    - They try to do His will.
- Christians know who Jesus is...
- John Wesley's mother told him when he left home what he needed to know. She wrote these words in the fly leaf of his Bible: "Sin will keep you from this Book, but this Book keep you from sin.
- Knowing God's word is one way deepening our relationship with Him.
- The apostle John wrote in **I John 1:9**, "He Knew people would not live perfect lives, but He also knew that if we trust in the Lord and in His word and turn to Him when we make mistakes in stead of running from Him that it would be a genuine proof of our relationship with Him.
- Christians trust in what Jesus has done.
- Jesus turned the wrath of God away from us as sinners and took it on Himself for us.
- Knowing He made the once and for all substitute for our sin, we give Him our love, gratitude, and loyalty. We trust Him, not our goodness or righteousness to get us through.

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. **Hebrews 12:1 NASB**

- It's what we do with the sin that so 'easily entangles us' that matters. We must truly know who Jesus is and what He has done for us. Jesus saves people their sins.

He really is the Christ, the Righteous One, the Son of God, our advocate.

For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit. **I Peter 3:18 NASB**



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<sup>7</sup>Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard. <sup>8</sup>On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining. <sup>9</sup>The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. <sup>10</sup>The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. <sup>11</sup>But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

<sup>12</sup>I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake. <sup>13</sup>I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. <sup>14</sup>I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one. **I John 2:7-14 NASB**

- Christians try to do God's will.
  - Obeying the Lord; walking in the light is not just characterized by sinning less but equally by loving more.
  - The one who has been forgiven much loves much and consequently sins less.
  - A real connection with God is marked by a new sensitivity to a conviction of sin.
  - It also leads us to a growing likeness of character to Jesus in our life through obedience to His word.
  - Walking in the light of the Lord also results in genuine love for other believers.
  - John talks about an old commandment and a new one as well. **(I John 2:7-8)**

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You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD. **Leviticus 19:18 NASB**

<sup>37</sup>And He said to him, “‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ <sup>38</sup>This is the great and foremost commandment. <sup>39</sup>The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets. **Matthew 22:37-40 NASB**

<sup>34</sup>A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. **John 13:34-35 NASB**

FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL  
AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MINDS,  
AND I WILL WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS. AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD,  
AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. **Hebrews 8:10 NASB**

- John tells us in **I John 2:8** that this new commandment is true in Jesus and now it is true, it is a reality in you and me!
- Light and love go together...if we love people, we take measures not to sin against them and make them or those close to them stumble.
- Self-righteousness is a ‘fountain of darkness’...we can easily step out of the light and live a life filled with our own stumbling while also being a stumbling block to others...this is not His plan.
- John speaks to children, young men, and fathers.
  - Little children – these are younger people and/or those who are ‘new in the Lord.’ They are not spiritually experienced or mature, but they are in God’s family and bear His name. (See **Acts 4:12**)
  - Young men – they have grown some in the word and in their walk, and they have been introduced to spiritual warfare and dealing with the enemy.
  - Fathers – those more mature in the things and ways of God. Those who have had encounters with God and are wise in His word and life in the kingdom.

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- The Christian life is a process of knowing and growing, sowing and going, becoming and overcoming as we walk in the Light we are given.

<sup>15</sup>Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. <sup>17</sup>The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. **I John 2:15-17 NASB**

<sup>15</sup>Don't set the affections of your heart on this world or in loving the things of the world. The love of the Father and the love of the world are incompatible. <sup>16</sup>For all that the world can offer us—the gratification of our flesh, the allurements of the things of the world, and the obsession with status and importance none of these things come from the Father but from the world. <sup>17</sup>This world and its desires are in the process of passing away, but those who *love to* do the will of God live forever. **I John 2:15-17 The Passion Translation**

For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh [craving for sensual gratification] and the lust of the eyes [greedy longings of the mind] and the pride of life [assurance in one's own resources or in the stability of earthly things]—these do not come from the Father but are from the world [itself]. **I John 2:16 AMPC**

- We are exhorted to 'not love the world'...but the Bible says 'God so loved the world'...(John 3:16)
- So what do we do?
- When John says 'Love not the world', he isn't referring to God's creation or to the world of people.
- He is referring to the world system, the domain of darkness and sin which is organized against God. (See Ephesians 2:13)

Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. **John 12:31 NASB**

I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; **John 14:30 NASB**

You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. **I John 4:4 NASB**



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We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in *the power of* the evil one. **I John 5:19 NASB**

- For all that is in the world...is not from God. (**I John 2:16-17**) And it is passing away...on it's way out.

What's in the world??

- The lust of the flesh...the gratification of our self-indulgent appetites...living lured and 'lassoed'...
- The lust of the eyes...the allurements of things fleshly and flashy...the greedy urgings of godless desires...living by sight and ignoring God's insight and wisdom.
- The boastful pride of life...self-indulgent, self-centered, self-assured confidence that man is in control and God is not needed.

Barclay calls this passage in **I John 2:15-17**, "Rivals for the human heart" ...the world is not simply a passive entity, but a rival for the allegiance of everybody's heart. The issue is...what do you love the most...we can't love the world and the Lord both the most at the same moment.

All that the world has to offer is fading and passing away...it is transitory...but those who love God and love doing His will will live forever.

These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world. **John 16:33 NASB**