

## Part 3 – 1 John 2:1-11

### I. Our Advocate Jesus Christ – 2:1-2

#### A. Vs. 1 – John’s words of encouragement to us deal with when we do sin, and with the fact that we have Jesus on our side.

1. John’s desire is that we not sin, but he also recognizes that we can. Remember:

- A. We are in the light.
- B. We are forgiven.
- C. We are continually cleansed by the blood of Christ.

\*\* John states this to us with the encouragement it provides in dealing with sin. We have this as a plus on our side.

2. Note John’s use of “little or dear children.” One of John’s favorite expressions, it is a term of endearment

3. The verse literally says, “if we do sin”, despite John’s words of encouragement to not, we have on our side Jesus Christ, “someone to plead” for us, literally, “an Advocate.” In other words, in case we do sin we have Christ standing for us before the Father on our behalf.

A. An “Advocate” describes “one called to another’s side”, “one who pleads another’s case before a judge”, “a counsel for the defense.” It describes one who pleads another’s cause.

B. Christ is described as the One Who is “truly righteous”, adding strength to His role as Advocate. The word this phrase comes from is the word for “righteous” and describes Him as “innocent, faultless, and guiltless.” See Acts 7:52; Acts 22:14; 1 Peter 3:18 about Christ, the “Just One.”

C. As our Advocate He is on our side. When we do sin, we know that Christ pleads on our behalf before the Father, not based on who we are, but entirely on what He has done. When we are accused by the enemy, He stands for us as being clothed in His righteousness.

#### B. Vs. 2 – Here Christ is seen as our “sacrifice.”

1. “Sacrifice” or “propitiation” has the idea of “appeasement” or “satisfaction.”

2. In the OT the word was used regarding the “Mercy Seat”, where blood was sprinkled to appease God and bring forgiveness of sins.

3. Christ shed His blood, took our sins upon Himself, fulfilling God’s attitude towards sin. The cross has satisfied God’s demands and God himself was willing and was the only One capable to meet those demands.

4. Christ is the satisfaction of God, not for our sins only, but for the entire world (see John 3:14-16). Christ’s atoning sacrifice is available to all who call upon Him.

## **II. Signs of New Life – 1 John 2:3-11**

### **A. Vs. 3 – Here John states that a claim by someone to “know” God includes a life of obedience.**

1. “Belonging to” or “knowing” God is more than simple intellectual assent. It is very clear that obeying what He says shows clearly that you do “know Him” (perfect tense). A perfect tense verb indicates the continued result of an action. We came to know Him at the point of salvation and the result is we still know Him, we still have a relationship with God, which is evident as seen in our lives.

2. Those who know Him “obey” His commandments. To “obey” is to “attend carefully”, “to take care of”, to “observe.” This is seen in John 14:15-24; 1 John 3:22,24; 1 John 5:2.

3. This verse answers those who claimed they could sin and not be affected spiritually. This was what the Gnostics claimed. Anyone making the same claim needs to look at this verse.

### **B. Vs. 4 – This builds on the previous verse to continue the thought of really “knowing” God.**

1. To claim to “know” or “belong to” God, to have a saving relationship yet not “keep” (present tense – something we are doing now) His commandments, makes us a liar.

2. The “commandments” are the statements made in the New Testament about how we are to live. Passages such as Ephesians 4-6 and Colossians 3-4 give us an abundance of things that we are to “obey” and “live.” The supreme command is found in Mt. 22:34-40 where we are commanded to “love God and each other.”

3. The word “liar” is found in 1 John 1:10, and in that verse, it indicates a person without Christ. That would be the same fact here. Note also that those who don’t obey God’s Word are not “living in the truth.” 1 John 1:8 says these types of people are not saved. Believers have the “truth” in them.

### **C. Vs. 5 – Here is the result of the person who does have a relationship with God.**

1. The person who is obeying God’s Word shows their love for God. The idea of the word is that the love within us is being made complete or matured or perfected as we obey.

2. The true child of God has God’s love already in them, but is being perfected in our everyday life with people.

3. John states that this is one of the ways that we can know that we are in Him. By “obeying” His commandments, His “Word.”

4. The phrase “in Him” is a key. If you are “in Christ”, you never slip out of that relationship with Him. See Rom. 8:1; Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:30; Col. 1:24-28.

#### **D. Vs. 6 – To claim we “live” in Him, it needs to show up in our lives.**

1. The word “abides” or “lives” as some translations have it seems to have a couple of different meanings in the New Testament. There is a “living” or “abiding” which describes our salvation position with Christ, but there is a use of the word that deals with how we live. This would be like being controlled by the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). For the use of “abide” in John’s Gospel, see John 5:38; John 8:31-36; John 12:46; John 15:1-12.

2. “Abiding” has the idea of “remaining, continuing to be present.” It can carry the idea of being at home with someone.

3. In this verse John seems to be stating that if we claim to have a relationship with God (vss. 4-5), then we should walk as Christ walked. The word “should” means “to be held under obligation.” This person is obligated to live as Christ did by their actions, words and attitudes.

### **III. A New Command – 1 John 2:7-11**

#### **A. Vs. 7 – The Command**

1. The command John has in mind here is probably two-fold. One is found in Matthew 22:34-40, where Jesus says we are to love God and love our neighbor, and John 13:34-35, where love is the badge of discipleship, of that of being a follower of Christ. This love is seen in how we are towards others.

#### **B. Vs. 8 – This seems to be a contradiction to vs. 7, but it is not. To John, the commandment of Christ found in John 13 had not lost its freshness.**

1. In Christ, love was shown to all. Orthodox Jews would not extend love to sinners, or to Gentiles, for according to their teachings, those groups of people were created for hell. Jesus was the opposite. He was a listener, a teacher of women, who were also despised by culture. He reached out to the ignored and loved them.

2. The commandment to love was seen in its completeness in Christ. In Christ, love was genuine. Christ’s Kingdom was being extended by truth and love.

3. The darkness “disappearing” refers to the lost world and the enemy’s kingdom, which is being overcome by the light of the Kingdom of Christ. Christ is bringing people into His Kingdom (Col. 1:13).

4. This love, if we are children of God, will be true in us. Our actions will back up our claims.

#### **C. Vss. 9-11 – Here is another of John’s “salvation tests.”**

1. Again, note the wording of the verse. He who is claiming to be in the light, yet hates his brother, is in darkness even now.

2. The word “hates” means to “detest, pursue with hatred.” It is an attitude, a habitual thing. Other verses support John’s claim in questioning a person’s salvation who hates others (see 1 John 4:20; Titus 3:1-6).

3. To be without love shows that you are not a child of God.
4. We all struggle with sin, but a believer will deal with sin eventually. If not, God will chastise His children. They cannot stay angry, envious, or bitter without repenting at some time. If they “never repent”, they may not have been a child of God to begin with.
5. W.E. Vine defines the word (rejects or hates) in the following way, “of malicious and unjustifiable feelings towards others, whether towards the innocent or by mutual animosity.”
6. 1 John 2:10 tells us that loving others shows that we are living in the light and in doing that we will not cause others to stumble in their walk with God. We will take 1 Cor. 8 and Rom. 14-15 to heart, that though we have freedoms in Christ, we will be aware to not cause other followers of Christ to trip up by what we do and say. Our freedom is to serve others (Gal. 5:13).
7. Conversely, 1 John 2:11 says that a person who hates others is still living and walking in darkness. They are not believers. John 13:34-35 tells us that love is the “badge” of being a disciple of Jesus. One of the fruits of the Spirit is love (Gal. 5:22-23). Yes, Christians can get angry and bitter, and be hateful at times, but these verses denote a continual way of living and acting, and no true believer can constantly hate.

#### **IV. A Summary of 1 John 2:3-11**

- A. A test of salvation is obedience to the commands of Christ – vss. 3-5
- B. One who is truly saved will live and walk as Christ did. They will sin, but the desire of their heart is to walk as Christ did – vs. 6
- C. One who is saying they are in the light, yet rejects or hates their brother, is in darkness – vss. 7-9,11
- D. One who loves shows they are a child of God – vs. 10

#### **Questions To Think On:**

1. What does it mean that Jesus is our “advocate”? (**1 John 2:1-2**). What positive affect does that have on us as Christians when it comes to dealing with sin in our lives?
2. Is salvation limited only to a select group? What does **1 John 2:2** mean to you?
3. How can we obey Christ without becoming legalistic and judgmental? What do you see as the connection between obeying God and loving Him? (**1 John 2:3-6**). What if a person simply refuses to obey God yet claims to be His child?
4. How does hate and unforgiveness towards others blind us spiritually? Do you think a Christian can stay in a state of bitterness, anger, and hate without repenting? What does it mean to love our brothers and sisters? (**1 John 2:9-11**).

