

## FINGERPRINTS OF FAITH – (1 JOHN 2:1-6): WEEK 2

**REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK 1 JOHN 1:1-10: TRUE INTIMACY IS FOUND IN CHRIST, BROKEN BY SIN, AND RESTORED BY CONFESSION. CONFESSION IS THE PATHWAY TO INTIMACY WITH GOD**

**CENTRAL IDEA FOR 1 JOHN 2:1-6: OBEDIENCE PRESERVES AND PROJECTS INTIMACY WITH GOD**

Let's face it, God has created us to be relational beings. We are reminded of this in Genesis 2:18 when God says, "It is not good man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Fellowship via relationships is a gift from God. We have followed the pattern of Adam and Eve and have disobeyed the clear commands of God. However, in Genesis 3:15 God provides a prophecy of hope and victory that will come forth through the offspring of man and woman which is Jesus Christ (The God-Man).

The Apostle John reminds the young group of believers here that this prophecy has been fulfilled. Jesus Christ the God-man has provided the pathway to intimacy with God. John wants them to know and live out this truth.

We do this by Knowing the truth, Obeying the truth, and Living the truth (The Example of Christ)

### I. Knowing the Truth (vs. 1-2)

#### A.) The Purpose (v.1)

1. **"My dear children, I write to you so that you will not sin."** – John begins the chapter with a term of endearment (Literally means, my little born again ones, which occurs (6) times in this letter). The opening remarks show that John is writing out of deep affection for these believers. Our message must be a message of love even when dealing with the subject of sin. We say hard things not out of self righteousness but of a deep affection for God desiring that others have the same intimacy that we have. **This is serving as a word of caution, a deterrent, and roadblock not to follow the pathway of sin.**

**Do our words and life serve as a caution, a deterrent, and roadblock to sin? Are we silent of the subject of sin? Our silence on sin diminishes its severity. As a family of God we must address sin in order to protect our intimacy of our relationship to others and God.**

2. **"But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with Father, Jesus Christ, the Righteous One."** - John shares here a **reminder and resource that all of us need to be aware of.** First, we are reminded that we will sin, the first portion of this verse serves as reminder that we will sin, the pronoun "we" reemphasizes that we will indeed sin

**Roman 3:23, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."**

**James 2:10, "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it"**

The word sin means, "to miss the mark". God has set a standard of living that we have missed because of our sin, making us violators of His requirement for perfect obedience. This is bad news. The good news is we have a resource at our disposal. **"We have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the Righteous One."** The term Advocate is the same term used to describe the Holy Spirit who is our Helper and Comforter. (The term means, "to come alongside of.") Jesus serves as our counselor, our defense attorney, our spokesman. No one is more qualified to serve in this role because He understands our depravity

**Hebrews 4:14-15, Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet he did not sin.**

Only Jesus can intercede on our behalf. No else is qualified to appear before God the Father, the Judge of all mankind. Only Jesus is able to acquit us of our death sentence of sin. **Why is Jesus the only one able to acquit us of these charges?**

#### B.) The Promise (v.2)

1. **"He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only ours but also the sins of the whole world."** Atoning sacrifice means, "appeasement or satisfaction". Jesus was a pleasing, acceptable, and satisfying sacrifice to God's demand for justice against mankind's sin." Simply put this term means God's wrath deflected off us and on to Christ. This is an essential truth and is necessary for salvation. Why? God is just and must respond justly with holy, righteous anger, wrath and judgment towards sin. **Psalm 5:4-5, <sup>4</sup> For you are not a God who is pleased with wickedness; with you, evil people are not welcome. <sup>5</sup> The arrogant cannot stand in your presence. You hate all who do wrong;**

What is our presupposition on how God's views sin? Do we see God as a cosmic Grandpa who only has the characteristic of love? Do we understand that while He is a God of love, He abhors sin? Not to believe in God's wrath paints a distorted picture of a Holy God. Praise God that when we were disobedient, Jesus was obedient. He did what we could not do.

**Philippians 2:8, And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on death on a cross!**

## II. Obeying the Truth (vs. 3-5)

### A.) What Obedience Assures (v.3)

**"We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands."** The phrase, "We know" means "to continually perceive something by experience." We look back at a past action (Christ on the cross) that offers continual results in the present (forgiveness). The Gnostics taught a secret, mystical, hidden, and transcendent knowledge that could only be obtained by the religious elite. John wrote this to say this is contrary to correct teaching. God does not want us to have a think so, hope so, or wish so salvation. God wants us to have a know so salvation. The measuring tape or barometer of this is if we keep his commands. The words "keep" points to the idea of being "observant, having watchful obedience, or guarding something".

**How are you doing? Are you obedient to the commands of God? How do we view the commands of God?**

**1 John 5:2-3, "This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,"**

**Are you walking in confidence in your relationship with Him?**

### B.) What Disobedience Assures (v.4)

**"Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person."**

**Many profess Christ, but do you possess Christ?**

**Titus 1:16, "They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good."**

Continual Disobedience is a clear indication of not knowing Christ.

### C.) What Obedience Provides (v.5)

**"But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in Him."** Obedience projects intimacy with God. If we love God, we will sincerely and lovingly seek to keep His word. The phrase "In Him" is a common phrase in the NT meaning "to rest in, remain in, or abide in". God wants us to abide and rest in an intimate relationship with Him.

**What are you resting in today? What do you trust in? Who are you leaning on?**

## III. Living the Truth (The Example of Christ) (v.6)

**"Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did."** In essence what John is saying in this verse is, "What you see is what you get." If you claim to rest or remain in him your life should resemble the life of Jesus Christ.

**John 15:4-5, "Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."**

**John 14:31, "but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me"**

**Be honest this morning, what does your life project? What do you see when your life is lined up next to the commands of God? Obedience says, "God I am yours, and you are mine".**