

WEEK 7: CONFESSING SIN PART 3
1 JOHN 2:1, 2

- I. 1John 2:1 ¶ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.
- A. “LITTLE CHILDREN” → term of endearment
- B. **Writing so that “you will not sin”**
1. **John is completely aware of the unredeemed flesh of man**
- C. “I write these things” → things he had just went over in the above chapter
1. Writing not to accuse but to encourage, to support them in the battle of sin
 2. **They desire to live holy lives**, But at times sin creeps into your life.
 3. **writing these things to you** – ones that claim the name of Christ
- D. **Sin can and will alienate a man from God**
1. NOT that God pulls away, But **we pull away from God** when we choose to sin.
- E. **John has written plainly that Christ is both God and Man**
1. And Christ was tempted in all ways as we are tempted→ He did not sin!
- F. John shared that 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
1. No need to deny that you sin! But this does not have to be so.
 2. “I am writing that you will not sin”
 3. If you do sin, “confess [your] sins, he is faithful and just to forgive [you] [your] sins and to cleanse [you] from all unrighteousness.”.
- II. **You do not have to sin!**
- A. 2:1 “I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin”
- B. **Implication John is making and Scripture makes clear, is that You do NOT have to sin!** You are not a slave to sin!
- C. Paul expanded the command further → Ro 6:12 Let not sin therefore **reign in your mortal body**, to make you obey its passions. **13 Do not present your members to sin** as instruments for unrighteousness, but **present yourselves to God** as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. **14 For sin will have no dominion over you**, since you are **not under law but under grace**.
1. You don’t have to let sin reign –ie, be master over you!
 2. **We choose to sin!**→ you are no longer slave
 3. **Sinning or NOT sinning is a decision of the “WILL” of a believer**
 4. Jn Mac: “Before sin can have power over a believer, it must pass through his will.”
 5. Whatever it is for that moment was more important to you than Christ’s will for you

D. **Php 2:13** for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

1. → God works in a believer to will and to work for His pleasure → not for the pleasure of our flesh or the devil
2. To sin we must reject what God wills for us at that time

III. **But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.**

A. **After explaining that as believers you do not have to sin, John basically is saying but you will!**

B. **Ro 3:10** as it is written,: “there is none is righteous, no, not one;

C. **For that sin, you deserve death (Rom 6:23)** → sin is against God and Wage is death

D. **Note John says, “we”**→ includes himself in what he has just said say

1. That he too, does sin at times→ but “**we have an advocate with the Father**”

E. **Advocate**→ **parakletos**– **comforter, one who comes along side**

1. one who **pleads another’s cause before a judge**
2. As a defense attorney→One who goes the God the Father on our behalf

F. **Satan is the accuser of the brethren continuously before God**

1. **Re 12:10** And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, **for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.**
2. May think that just because you have denounced him and sought repentance & forgiveness in Jesus Christ that he has admitted defeat and will leave you alone.
3. **Satan never gives up**–helures you into sin and then accuses you before God

G. **But Jesus is your Advocate– He is your defender**, who pleads for you before the Judge; He is your intercessor.

1. His clients are those who confess their sin and declares their need for forgiveness
2. They understand their need for the fellowship of the Savior.

H. **Satan would say, “kill him if You are just, they are guilty”** —.

1. **Jesus has a unique defense– He never states your innocence!** He knows your guilt!
2. Jesus says, “Father, they are sinners, but I died for his sin”
3. Because Jesus is our Advocate, God finds the guilty one, (you) innocent
4. Not because you are innocent, not because you deserve it–but because Jesus is your Advocate
5. Christ has never lost a case and never will→He always wins the acquittal!

- I. Paul speaks of our security as Jesus is our Advocate → Ro 8:33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.
- J. Our Advocate with the Father is “Jesus Christ the righteous”
 - 1. He is the “Righteous One”
 - 2. Because He lived a perfect life and died and was risen from the dead
 - 3. His righteousness has already been placed on your account if you are truly a believer
 - 4. You therefore have been declared innocent of any charge, past/present/future
 - 5. If Jesus was not a man, did not live a perfect life and die for you as the Gnostics taught, Then you are still dead in your sin, you will forever have a problem and when you stand before God in judgement→ **you will receive the wages of your sin!**
- IV. 2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.
 - A. propitiation → hilasmos – a satisfaction, an appeasing
 - B. **God is always just→ sin must and can never go unpunished > He must be satisfied!**
 - C. John writes, “Jesus Christ, the righteous One is not just your Advocate or defender, when you sin, →actually the One who appeased the justice of God → He paid your debt!
 - D. **Wages will always be paid**→Either Jesus pays for them now by His death on the cross or you will pay for them in ALL ETERNITY!
 - E. As true believers, you have an Advocate, not just anyone, but Jesus Christ the righteous One who died for you!
 - F. He pays the wage and then stands ready to defend you daily before God
 - G. (KJ21) Ps 62:2 He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is **my defense**; I shall not be greatly moved. 6 He only is my rock and my salvation; **He is my defense**; I shall not be moved.
 - H. He not only is who sustains us in this world as we tread through the battles of sin and Satan – He is our defender always before God!
- V. and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.
 - A. This has been a stumbling block verse for many to interpret
 - B. Options
 - 1. Jesus was the appeasement for sins of everyone in the world=> All go to heaven
 - 2. Some teach that Jesus made a down payment for our sins and made appeasement possible, you just have to pick it up and make it your own

3. Others would teach that what John is saying here is to contradict false teaching of the Gnostics that salvation is restricted to those who have special higher knowledge. That John is saying:
 - a. That Jesus is the only propitiation for our sins before God
 - b. Only One who would/could appease God's wrath as He is the only Man who lived a perfect life and had perfect righteousness
 - c. And that He has done such for many throughout the world
 - d. For all those who would repent and believe the gospel
 - e. And the only ones that will repent and believe are those that God elected before the world began.

C. I support and believe the latter interpretation as that is what the entire bible says about the topic

D. In reality Jesus satisfied the eternal wrath of God only for the elect that God Himself chose before the foundation of the world.

1. For these Jesus sits at the right hand of God and advocates before God for their souls
2. For these Jesus was the complete and ongoing propitiation for their sins.

VI. Summation

- A. John closes out his second test of true salvation.
- B. Those who are true believers will live as those that have been forgiven of their sin,
- C. And when they fall into sin, they will be broken over it and confess it before the Lord.

- D. God will continually work in them, sanctifying them, and as they are more and more transformed into the image of Christ, sin will continually become more obvious in their lives.

- E. This itself is a sign of a true believer because it is the Holy Spirit that is working in you that makes you sensitive to sins presence and causes a grieving and a consequent confession of sin.

- F. These and these alone are the blessed ones– these have the power through the Holy to conquer sin but when they fail– Jesus is their defense.

- G. They therefore walk in the light that Christ provides, and their lives manifest the truth that He has brought to their hearts.

VII. Discussion

- A. Why would a believer need an advocate before God if they have been forgiven already for their sin?

- B. How does knowing that Jesus is advocating for you before God for sin affect you on a daily basis?

- C. How is admission of sin and guilt a prerequisite for salvation?

- D. Why did John have such a high view of Christ, the “Word of life”?