

1 John 2:1-11

Confronted

Image Church // First John: Week 2

Introduction

Brittany and Caleb... Celebrate them (take selfie)

SKS Awareness Day on the 15th...

If you have your Bible go ahead and turn to 1 John... We're in week 2 as we walk through the book of 1 John...

- Talked about how God is light...
- Can't claim to know Him, and actively walk in darkness...
- Confession and exposure of sin, trust in the finished work of Jesus give us confidence and confirmation of our fellowship with God...

Well, now, what John's going to do now is show us **what it looks like to "walk in the light"**...

- ***IOW: What does it look like to truly have a relationship with God?***

And here's why this is going to be so important and why you need to pay attention...

- For a lot of people, up to this point, they're tracking, *yeah, I agree* because we don't know what it actually looks like...

Here's the thing that happens so often, we based whether or not we're walking in the off of our **subjective** view and not God's **objective** view...

- We evaluate where we are before God based on how we think or feel or how we compare to others...

Well, John's about to show us the implications of what having a relationship with God looks like... This is where the rubbers going to meet the road...

For some of you, this is going to confront whether or not you're actually saved. For others, it's going to confront your complacency. For others, it's going to confront your motivation...

All of us are going to be confronted this morning, the question is going to be, what will you do with it?!?

Let's jump in...

1 John 2:1-11

¹ My little children, I am writing you these things so that you may not sin.

Alright, so here's what we need to see... ***Having a relationship with God means that you understand that sin is a big deal.***

Here's the thing we have a tendency to water the gospel down to a cheap version of grace that makes sin not that big of a deal because, after all, Jesus died for it!

- We love the verse in **Romans 5:20** that says; *But where sin multiplied, grace multiplied even more...*

And we settle into the belief that ***the work of Jesus alters the destiny of our souls one day, but has no effect on my behavior today...***¹

It's why slogans like:

- *Christians aren't perfect, just forgiven...*
- *I'm just a sinner, saved by grace...*
- *And we love to hold up judge not lest you be judged...*
- *Or Only God can judge me...*

¹ Robert W. Yarbrough, *1-3 John*, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament, 71.

And it's **not that those things aren't true...** It's that we misuse them to justify the sin in our lives...

- And rather than seeing our sin for what it is, we hide behind statements like these...

The gospel doesn't minimize our view of sin, it magnifies it...

Illustration: When I started working out hard after college, let me tell you what it didn't do... It didn't minimize the gaps in my fitness...

- I didn't go to CF 1 time and be like, *bro I'm there...*
- *Look in the mirror and say, I have arrived, I have no gaps, I am an impeccable human being...*
- *I know my wife may be surprised by that...*
- I walked in and got crushed... CF exposed all of my weaknesses...
- But it was in the exposure of the gaps in my fitness that allowed me to see who I really was...

In the gospel, we get exposed for who we really are... **And we see who God really is...** We see how holy He is and how much he hates sin... And how he executes justice on sin...

- God of the OT...
 - *Oh, that the OT God, the NT God, is somehow different...*
- Not true... What we have to see from the OT is the severity of sin...
- **When we see the severity of sin in the OT it helps us see the significance of the Savior in the NT!**
- If we don't see sin for what it is then the sacrifice of Jesus isn't that great!

See, God doesn't change in the NT, He unleashes just as much on sin. **It's just that Jesus takes it all on Himself...**

- The gospel shows us just how severe our sin is...
- It cost Jesus His life on the cross...
- Taking on the wrath of God that was unleashed on Him...

Sin is a big deal, and it's why Paul follows up **Romans 5:20** where *sin multiplied, grace multiplied even more...*

With; **What should we say then? Should we continue in sin so that grace may multiply?² Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it?** (Romans 6:1-2) [Reference verse]

Here's the thing I need you to see, the gospel is not a license to sin; its liberation from the power of sin...

***And that liberation isn't just from the sin that we committed; it's liberation from the power of sin in our lives!**

- Meaning that we have been **freed** from the *compulsion to believe, behave, and love in ways that fall short of God's glorious and transforming light.*²

*John wants us to walk in that freedom and that power that comes through the work of Jesus...

And here's the thing **the way that you don't fall into sin is by fixing your eyes on Jesus!**

Illustration: Learning to drive, where are you looking son...

Many of us get tired and frustrated because we're just *trying not to sin...* That's exhausting...

Not falling into sin is a byproduct of keeping your eyes fixed on Jesus...

- It's why John keeps pointing us to Jesus...

Illustration: Couple dating... hot and heavy on the couch... Dad comes in Navy Seal... Fear of Dad is greater than desire for intimacy!

² Ibid.

Not sinning doesn't happen by trying to beat sin, it comes by seeing Jesus as better...

Some of you are either trapped in sin or minimizing sin...

- Happily doing the very things Jesus died for...
- And the solution isn't to try harder, be better... The solution is to look to Jesus!

Look at what he says next...

But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ the righteous one.² He himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world.

Jesus is your advocate, your helper, your intercessor...

- Love this...

GOSPEL

- *The righteous one... Perfect in your place...*
- *Attoning sacrifice... Propitiation... Payment in your place talking on the judgment and wrath of God for you...*
- *Advocate: He's pleading on your behalf, saying innocent!*

The picture we get is we stand guilty before a perfect and holy God...

- All of our sin is exposed for what it is... Every thought/action.
- We stand condemned...
- Jesus says, innocent!

*And here's the thing, **the more that your sin is exposed, the more it drives you to Jesus...**

- Scandalous nature of the gospel...

And then John's going to show us the implications of receiving this gospel in **verse 3...**

³ This is how we know that we know him: if we keep his commands.

This is not about keeping commands as a means of salvation but as proof of your salvation...

IOW: What John shows us is that **Being in a relationship with God means that you pursue the things of God...**

Paul brings more clarity around this in **2 Corinthians 5:14–15**¹⁴ **For the love of Christ compels us, since we have reached this conclusion, that one died for all, and therefore all died.**¹⁵ **And he died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died for them and was raised.** [Reference verse]

At the core of salvation is surrender that comes from experiencing the love of God...

- **Illustration:** I want you to think about what it means to surrender...
 - Military... Wave the white flag...
 - This is not just freedom, but it's also submitting to their leadership...

The same is true when it comes to surrendering to God... It's not just about gaining freedom from sin, it's about submitting to God's leadership of your life... Where He's Lord over your life...

Illustration: There's a lot of **Vampire Christians** that want Jesus for His blood... But that's it... They want what they can get from Him, but they don't want to surrender to Him...

- **When you surrender to God, it means that He's Lord of your life...**

He's the one who shapes how you live... How does that happen? Through His Word...

What Jons is saying here is that the way that you can know whether or not you know God is by evaluating how much of your life is submitted to the Word of God...

BYW: this is why knowing the Bible matters... This is why we're bible people here... Do what the Word says... **Core Class Plug...**

So here's the question: ***Are you shaped more by the Word of God or the world?***

- Do you know the Word? Do you have a desire for the Word?

A big part of how the Word of God shapes us is a deep commitment to the local church... His Body...

- Are you Committed? Do not forsake the gathering, **Hebrews 10:25**...
- **Why I highlight the church:**
 - Helps us know and live out the Word of God...
 - Saved from something to something, the church for the purpose of experiencing God and growing in the things of God!
 - Membership is a good next step (coming up)!

Last thing, as a side note here: what you will see when you dive into the Word of God is that the commands of God are actually a good thing...

- Not about rules to keep, but an abundant life to live where Jesus is at the center!

Verse 4... Per his pattern, he's going to give the negative implication here of not pursuing the things of God...

⁴ The one who says, "I have come to know him," and yet doesn't keep his commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

John uses a literary technique called **amplification**...

- John really wants us to see that being a Christian is so much more than lip service... It's about life surrender...

John Piper: *Some people say the way we live after putting our faith in Christ has nothing to do with our salvation. I answer that a powerless gospel is not good news. A gospel that only wins lip service is not different than all the other philosophies of the world. Such a gospel produces a Christianity that is a game of words. It encourages lukewarm church-goers that they are safe from God's wrath because of some inherited mental assent to the love of God.*

*John's going to keep expounding on this idea of pursuing the things of God in **verse 5**, and he's going to bring some more clarity to how we do this...*

⁵ But whoever keeps his word, truly in him the love of God is made complete. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶ The one who says he **remains** in him should walk just as he walked.

IOW: what John's saying is *the love of God completes its work when we walk in obedience*...

- *God's love to us produces fruit in us...*

Remain: John talked about this in his gospel in **John 15**...

- Where Jesus talks about the vine and branch...
- Jesus is the vine, we are the branch those who **remain** in him bear much fruit...
- Uses the word **remain** 7 times... There in John 15...

The Christian life is characterized by **remaining in Jesus**...

- And if you remain in Jesus, you bear the fruit of Jesus in your life...
- Fruit is evidence of **remaining** in Jesus...

So that way that we pursue the things of God is by looking to Jesus!

- *See a pattern here...*

Having a relationship with God means that your life is shaped by Jesus...

- His grace and mercy are what catapults us into wanting to know Him, wanting to know Him...
- **AW Tozer Pursuit of God**...

Some of you are complacent in the Christian life because the **love of God has grown stale**...

- If you're not putting yourself in a position to be filled by the love of God then you can't expect it to flow out of you!
- This is why the church matters, this is what the church is for...

Hebrews 3:12, Hebrews 10:23...

- Encourage one another in the gospel... Provoke one another in the gospel...

Now, here's what John's about to do **verses 7-8** are going to serve as a transition moment for really the rest of his letter... **He's laid the foundation**, he's given the implications of a relationship with God, walking in the light vs. darkness... Now He's going to move to the practical application of how this plays out in everyday life...

He says:

⁷ Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old command that you have had from the beginning. The old command is the word you have heard. ⁸ Yet I am writing you a new command, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

You're like, alright, John, you lost me here... Here's the thing I love about the Bible it always interprets itself...

John's referring to what Jesus said, that John wrote about in his gospel in **John 13:34**: *I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another.* [reference verse]

Here's John's point: The call to love one another is an old command... And yet Jesus calls this a new command because He reframes it around Himself...

- You have the ability to love because of the way that you have been loved by Jesus...
 - Jesus, the true light has come, and His work is what makes this true in you...

And then he says this in **verse 9-11**: ⁹ The one who says he is in the light but hates his brother or sister is in the darkness until now. ¹⁰ The one who loves his brother or sister remains in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

¹¹ But the one who hates his brother or sister is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and doesn't know where he's going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

John brings it all together here in a very practical way...

The gospel to you, means the gospel through you... This is what it practically looks like to truly have a relationship with God...

Here's how this plays out... What Christ has been to you flows through you...

The love that you have experienced through Christ flows through you to others who are part of your Spiritual family...

- **Note: brother/sister language...**
- John's going to unpack this more later, but I want you to see the logical progression...

One of the greatest indicators of receiving the love of Christ is reciprocating the love of Christ to the people of Christ...

- Again, see the connection to the local church...
- See, the call of the local church...

Why it matters: John 13:34-35 I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

*The way Jesus is revealed to the world is through love that he demonstrated on the cross... And the way that love is made evident is through His church!

Conclusion [VAMP]

Call to the non-Christian...

- **TEST BAPTISM**
- *Why because that's your next step*

Appeal to the Christian

Minimizing sin...

Not being all in, in the Christian life...

- *Not committed to the Word of God and the things of God*
- *Say it, but your life shows something different...*
- *Not actively involved, not actively loving well...*

Going through the motions...

- *No motivation...*
- *Missing the love of God that's come to you through the person and work of Jesus...*
- *Not loving well...*

I told you this at the beginning: All of us are going to be confronted this morning. The question is going to be, what will you do with it?!?

You are faced with a choice today- how will you respond?

Guilt, shame? Rejection and continuing on?

Or will you look to Jesus, who is advocating for you! ... Rom. 8:1

- *Live in light of what He's done for you?!*
- *Taking a step forward in your faith journey!*

This is not about being better or doing better, this is about beholding Jesus, taking Him seriously, going all in on this together!

- *Celebrating each faithful step...*

Let me close with this:

- **Illustration:** *Baby starting to walk...*
- *God is a better parent than you...*
- *He is a good Dad that's not looking at you with in frustration or critique, He's looking at you with love celebrating each step of faith that you take!*

Pray