



What is right is not always popular – what is popular is not always right

1 John 2:1

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not.

Your right to be offended does not change my responsibility to speak the truth

- We should never intentionally say things in order to make people angry or make enemies

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Principle #1: The Affection of the Author

Too many people browbeat others with truth without ever first investing the time to establish a relationship with them

- Be careful not to spend all of your energy in *correction* without first investing your energy in *connection*

Leaders never ask for a hand without first connecting with their heart

John approached these people as a spiritual *father* rather than a spiritual *dictator*

- Where have all the spiritual fathers and mothers gone?
- John had spiritual capital to work with because he had deposited so much into the lives of these people

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Principle #2: The Perfection of the Believer

God is holy and desires His people to be holy

1 Peter 1:15-16

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

The word holy comes from the Greek word “hagios” which implies distinction and separation

2 Corinthians 6:16-18

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in [them]; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean [thing]; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

1 Samuel 5:2-4

When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon. 3 And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon [was] fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again. 4 And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon [was] fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands [were] cut off upon the threshold; only [the stump of] Dagon was left to him.

While we may never attain to the level where it is *impossible* to sin – we should strive to live at the level *above* sin

- The goal of every believer should be to live a sinless life

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Don't justify it – don't make excuses for it – don't pretend like it doesn't exist

Here is why you can overcome this area of weakness in your life...

Principle #3: The Representation of the Savior

1 John 2:1

And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

The word advocate comes from the Greek: “paraklētōs” which is a legal term that means “one who pleads another's cause before a judge, a pleader, counsel for defense, legal assistant”

1 John 3:4

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Jesus turns the moment that you should be judged into the moment that you are justified

Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Justified: to declare, pronounce, one to be just, righteous, or such as he ought to be

- When you are justified – God looks at you “Just as if you've never sinned”

1 John 2:2

And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for [the sins of] the whole world

Propitiation is a Greek word “hilasmos” it simply means an appeasement

- Jesus has become the appeasement and satisfaction of a righteous God to the entire world

Exodus 25:22

And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which [are] upon the ark of the testimony

Hebrews 4:15-16

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.