



The Book of First JOHN

Chapter 2:1-11

"The Love of God!"

I) The Love of God for Us (v1-2)

- **Understanding Sin** - It is impossible to deny the existence of sin, when the whole world is in conflict between good and evil. If sin were not a fact there would be no crime; we would not need jails or prisons. We would need no locks on our doors, or vaults for our valuables. To some, sin is being indiscreet; or it is a weakness of the flesh. To others, it is the absence from good. To the so-called scholar, sin is ignorance; and to the evolutionist, it is the nature of the beast. The latest theory is that sin is a disease to be treated by science, because man is not a sinner—he is only sick. To others, sin is a form of selfishness, but God declares that:

1- Sin is Lawlessness.

2- Sin is falling short of the glory of God.

3- Sin is rebellion against God.

4- Sin is unbelief; it makes God a liar.

5- Sin is going your own way, planning your life according to your own will, without seeking the will of God.

6- All unrighteousness is sin.

- **Sin** is a folly to deceive you, a force to destroy you, and a fact to condemn you. -

- **Sin** is a volitional act of disobedience against the revealed will of God.

- **Jesus is our ADVOCATE** - One who pleads another's cause before a tribunal or judicial court. The word advocate is found only once in the NKJV: "*If anyone sins we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous*" (1 John 2:1). The Greek word translated as advocate here is also found four times in the Gospel of John, all referring to the Holy Spirit (John 14:16,26; 15:26; 16:7; helper, NKJV).

Christians need an Advocate because of the **ADVERSARY**, the devil or Satan, who accuses us before God.

1 Peter 5:8-9 - Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Revelation 12:10-12 - Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

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If Satan is the "prosecuting attorney," Christ and the Holy Spirit are the legal advocates, the "defense attorneys," who help, defend, counsel, and comfort us; they plead the Christian's case before God day and night, providing a continuing remedy for sin."

(from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

- *Jesus is our PROPITIATION* - The atoning death of Jesus on the cross, through which He paid the penalty demanded by God because of man's sin, thus setting mankind free from sin and death. The word comes from an old English word, propitiate, which means "to appease." Thus, propitiation expresses the idea that Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for sin which a holy God demanded of man the sinner. Although Jesus was free of sin, He took all our sins upon Himself and redeemed us from the penalty of death, which our sins demanded.

(from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

Hebrews 2:14-3:1- Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

- Jesus says, "Not guilty! You are forgiven!" - Matthew 9:1-8 (The paralytic)
- Luke 7:36-50 (The woman)

-Understanding God's FORGIVENESS - The act of excusing or pardoning another in spite of his slights, shortcomings, and errors. As a theological term, forgiveness refers to God's pardon of the sins of human beings.

No religious book except the Bible teaches that God completely forgives sin (Ps 51:1,9; Isa 38:17; Heb 10:17). The initiative comes from Him (John 3:16; Col 2:13) because He is ready to forgive (Luke 15:11-32). He is a God of grace and pardon (Neh 9:17; Dan 9:9).

Sin deserves divine punishment because it is a violation of God's holy character (Gen 2:17; Rom 1:18-32; 1 Peter 1:16), but His pardon is gracious (Ps 130:4; Rom 5:6-8). In order for God to forgive sin, two conditions are necessary. A life must be taken as a substitute for that of the sinner (Lev 17:11,14; Heb 9:22), and the sinner must come to God's sacrifice in a spirit of repentance and faith (Mark 1:4; Acts 10:43; James 5:15).

Forgiveness in the New Testament is directly linked to Christ (Acts 5:31; Col 1:14), His sacrificial death on the cross (Rom 4:24), and His resurrection (2 Cor 5:15). He was the morally perfect sacrifice (Rom 8:3), the final and ultimate

fulfillment of all Old Testament sacrifices (Heb 9:11-10:18). Since He bore the law's death penalty against sinners (Gal 3:10-13), those who trust in His sacrifice are freed from that penalty. By faith sinners are forgiven-"justified" in Paul's terminology (Rom 3:28; Gal 3:8-9). Those who are forgiven sin's penalty also die to its controlling power in their lives (Rom 6).

Christ's resurrection was more than proof of His deity or innocence; it was related in a special way to His forgiveness. Christ's resurrection was an act by which God wiped out the false charges against Him; it was God's declaration of the perfect righteousness of His Son, the Second Adam, and of His acceptance of Christ's sacrifice (1 Tim 3:16). Because He has been acquitted and declared righteous, this is also true for those whom He represents. Thus, Christ's resurrection was a necessary condition for the forgiveness of man's sins (1 Cor 15:12-28). To be forgiven is to be identified with Christ in His crucifixion and resurrection. (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

- Luke 18:9-14 - The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector - *Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men — extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

II) The Love of God for One Another (v3-11)

- How to Love One Another:

Right Way

- #1- Keep His Commandments- "orders"
- #2- Walk in Love- "heart"
- #3- Be Truthful- "mind"
- #4- Let your light shine- "attitude"
- #5- Love your brother- "will"

Wrong Way

- "Options"
- "If they love me"
- "Deception/Manipulation"
- "Negative/Critical"
- "Selfish/Uncaring"

Conclusion: AN ACT OF THE WILL! - By Corrie Ten Boom