

1 John 2:1-2 CSB

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



"Advocate" (v.1)

Word: paraklētos (Greek) → one who comes alongside, a helper, a defense attorney.

Picture: You're standing in the courtroom guilty. Satan is the accuser (Rev. 12:10). But Jesus doesn't just defend you with clever arguments—He stands and says, "I've already paid their penalty."



"Propitiation" (v.2)

Big word: simply means "sacrifice that turns away wrath." God's holiness requires sin to be dealt with \rightarrow Jesus absorbs that judgment so we don't have to.

Romans 3:25 – "God put [Jesus] forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith."

2 Corinthians 5:21 – "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

Hebrews 2:17 – Jesus became fully human so He could be "a merciful and faithful high priest...to make **propitiation** for the sins of the people."





When you mess up (sin), what do you do? Hide it? Excuse it? Pretend it's not there?

John's saying: You don't have to cover up your sin— Jesus already did.

He's not just the God of your past salvation moment, He's the Advocate for your everyday failures.



1 John 2: 3-6— *Obedience* is the *evidence* you know & love God

1 John 2:3-6 CSB

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



Obedience doesn't earn salvation—it shows evidence of your salvation.

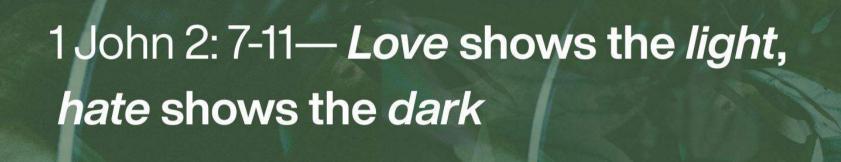
- Not Performance-Based, But Relationship-Based (We don't obey to get God's love—we obey because we already have it.)
 - If you claim Him, you should reflect Him.

Wrong belief 1: "If I mess up (sin), I'm not really saved." → No, because Jesus is your Advocate (vv. 1–2).

Wrong belief 2: "I can just say I know God without obeying Him." \rightarrow No, because obedience is the evidence (vv. 3-6).

Truth: Jesus saves you by grace, and obedience is the natural outflow of truly knowing Him.





1 John 2:7-11 CSB

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.



[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.



Don't say you love God if you can't love people.

Love is not optional—it's the marker of
someone truly walking with Jesus.

Who do you avoid, ignore, or treat with hate?

If Jesus' love is in you, it should come out of you



1 John 2:12-14 CSB

I am writing to you, little children, since your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. [13] I am writing to you, fathers, because you have come to know the one who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have conquered the evil one.



[14] I have written to you, children, because you have come to know the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you have come to know the one who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, God's word remains in you, and you have conquered the evil one.

No matter your stage—just starting out, growing strong, or deeply rooted—**Jesus has you**.

The same Jesus who defends you (vv.1–2), who calls you to walk with Him (vv.3–6), and who commands you to love like Him (vv.7–11), is the same Jesus who gives you a place in God's family (vv.12–14)



Memory Verse

1 John 2:6 - "Whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked."

Discussion Questions



- 1. What does it mean to you that Jesus is your Advocate? How does that help when you mess up (sin)?
- 2. How does knowing Jesus already paid for your sins (propitiation) affect the way you deal with guilt or failure?
- 3. How would someone know you truly know God just by observing your life?
- 4. What does "walking like Jesus" look like this week in school, at home, or with friends?
- 5. Why do you think John says that claiming to know God without obeying Him is lying?



- 6. How does loving others prove you're walking in the light?
- 7. Is there someone you struggle to love? What's one practical way to show them God's love this week?
- 8. Which stage of faith do you identify with most— child, young man, or father—and why?
- 9. How can what God has given you (forgiveness, strength, knowledge of Him) be used to help someone else in their faith?
- 10. What's one step you can take this week to make your obedience or love visible to others?

