

Living like Jesus

1 John 2:1-6

INTRODUCTION:

This morning, I want to consider another passage of Scripture written by John in what is known as 1 John. There are some wonderful truths in how to live as believers in this short little letter. I believe this passage has a message for us all as those who claim to be in Christ.

As you have heard me say before, one of my biggest worries is that there are some who truly believe they are believers but in fact are not. They have placed the identification of Christianity upon their lives, but their lives do not reflect Christian obedience nor Christian nature. I have said this before, and will again, I grew up in Church, and I have met very few Christians who would convince me by their life that Christianity is a real thing. It is a sad but real fact. So many people who go to Church are so loud and proud and annoying. They wouldn't know a quiet life the way Paul states, if it ran over them. So, many haven't truly let go and let God as the cliché states. We are still controlling our lives and not following Jesus. We must return to the Biblical understanding of Christianity and not what has become accepted in so many churches today where status quo acceptance is the norm.

The church today, afraid to ruffle anyone's feathers, rarely holds people accountable for many different fears, but the church should be a community of accountability. Without accountability there is not discipleship which is the command of the Great Commission. The church has failed in doing this because so many who identify as believers do not want to be told what to do. They are kind of like a tough mouth horse. You can plow line them to get them where they need to be, but there is not softness to them that reflects an authentic willingness. What we need most in this crazy world are believers who are soft to the touch of the Holy Spirit in their obedience to His will in their lives.

Vance Havner

We have become so subnormal in our Christian walk, that when someone gets normal by Biblical standards, we label them abnormal.

Vance Havner

The devil's not fighting churches today, he's joining churches.

A.W. Tozer

If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference.

1 John 2:1-6

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. He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world.

This is how we are sure that we have come to know Him: by keeping His commands. The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” yet doesn’t keep His commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly in him the love of God is perfected. This is how we know we are in Him: The one who says he remains in Him should walk just as He walked.

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I. Protection, Advocacy, & Commands (1-2)

- A. Our desire as believers should not be to sin.
- B. We will never be perfect, but it should be our aim.
- C. We will never be sinless, but as we grow in our faith we should sin less.
- D. When we do sin, the Scripture teaches that Jesus is constantly advocating for our lives because He is the one who appeased the righteous demands of God the Father by becoming our sin sacrifice.
- E. Don’t doubt your salvation if you struggle with sin, but begin to doubt your ability to overcome it by yourself.
- F. Would you evaluate your life as sinning less than you used to? Or have you simply changed the sins you commit?

¹ [*The Holy Bible: Holman Christian standard version*](#). (1 Jn 2:1–11). (2009). Holman Bible Publishers.

Charles Spurgeon

In judgment you shall have a divine advocate, in warfare, divine protector.

II. Identification of True Believers (3)

- A. The Bible clearly teaches how we can know we are saved and a part of Jesus.
- B. Verse 3 states, “This is how we are sure that we have come to know Him: by keeping His commands.
- C. This statement is not promoting a works-based salvation, but rather a grace motivated obedience.
- D. A true believer desires to keep Christ’s commands, and goes out of their way to do so.
- E. It is clear by this simple statement that if one is not keeping the commands of God then it identifies them as a false believer.
- F. Simply acknowledging God’s existence is not being a believer...even the devil does that!
- G. This does not mean that we will keep them perfectly without sin, otherwise why did John mention an advocate.
- H. The idea of “keeping” His commands means:
 - “The object of τηρέω in the sense “to preserve,” “to protect,” “to guard” is the disciple, or in the Church situation the Christian, who as he passes through the world is exposed to temptation and the danger of falling²
- I. The true believer is one who preserves the teaches of Jesus in how they live their lives.

² Riesenfeld, E. H. (1964–). [τηρέω, τήρησις, παρατηρέω, παρατήρησις, διατηρέω, συντηρέω](#). In G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), *Theological dictionary of the New Testament* (electronic ed., Vol. 8, p. 142). Eerdmans.

J. Are you preserving the word of God, the commands of Jesus, by how you live?

K. How can we preserve what we do not know?

A.B. Simpson

The chief danger of the Church today is that it is trying to get on the same side as the world, instead of turning the world upside down. Our Master expects us to accomplish results, even if they bring opposition and conflict. Anything is better than compromise, apathy, and paralysis. God give to us an intense cry for the old-time power of the Gospel and the Holy Ghost!

III. The Imperative of Living your Life like Jesus (4-6)

A. Notice the focus is on keeping his commands, and the one who says basically I am a Christian but does not keep his commands, is not a Christian according to John.

B. There is no room for hypocrisy in Christianity.

C. Now are we all hypocrites at some level? Yes!

D. But our aim as a follower of Christ is to make our behaviors align with our desire to follow Him.

E. That means at times we have to tell our carnal self no!

F. That means we don't get the final say, or someone speaks over us, or in the end we don't get our way.

G. Does the cross look like the optimal way?

H. How we answer this question depends on who's will we seek, ours or his?

I. Verse 6 states, if we claim to be in Him, he should or must or shall walk as Jesus did.

J. That means on Sunday morning and Saturday night. That means on Wednesday morning as well as the Friday night football games when the

referees make a bad call in your opinion. There is much greater at stake than what is going on in your life, and many Christians have not given up themselves enough to realize this fact.

Thom Rainer

If outside forces and culture were the reasons behind declining and non-influential churches, we would likely have no churches today. The greatest periods of growth, particularly the first-century growth, took place in adversarial cultures. We are not hindered by external forces; we are hindered by our own lack of commitment and selflessness.

Billy Graham

In some Churches today and on some religious television programs, we see the attempt to make Christianity popular and pleasant. We have taken the cross away and substituted cushions.

CONCLUSION

A.W. Tozer

The meetings least attended in our churches today are the ones whose only attraction is God.

William Moorehead Smith

Probably the greatest need in the Church today is a body of men who are absolutely devoted, every selfish purpose and plan given up, to the one great end of magnifying the Lord Jesus Christ in the midst of the nation.

Dallas Willard

The world can no longer be left to mere diplomats, politicians, and business leaders. They have done the best they could, no doubt. But this is an age for spiritual heroes- a time for men and women to be heroic in their faith and in spiritual character and power. The greatest danger to the Christian church today is that of pitching its message too low.