

## “Letters From John: Written So That...” - Part 3

1 John 2:1-6



“Righteous...Me?”

As we continue in our series, my goal is not just to have you see this as another portion of scripture we are learning as part of a series, but that we would see that it is about us, where we are, and who we are.

**Big Idea:** “because Jesus is our advocate, God’s children can live a righteous life!”

### The Defense of Righteousness (1 John 2:1-2)

*“<sup>1</sup> My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. <sup>2</sup> He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.” (1 John 2:1-2 NIV)*

- John wants us to understand by the grammar he uses that the verb “to sin”, shows momentary, not continual or intentional action. He then negates the entire phrase so that it literally reads, ***I am writing to you so that you make no attempt to sin, even for a moment.***
- But if you do...there is hope; we have one who speaks in our defense, or **advocate**. The word advocate in the Greek, *parakleōtos*, means, intercessor, consoler, or comforter.
- The phrase here in the NIV “atoning sacrifice”, is really the word “propitiation” as translated in the ESV, NASB, and KJV. It is the Greek word, *hilasmos*, and means, *atonement*, or *a sacrifice that bears God’s wrath and turns it to favor.*

### The Test of Righteousness (1 John 2:3-6)

*“<sup>3</sup> We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. <sup>4</sup> The man who says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. <sup>5</sup> But if anyone obeys his word, God’s love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: <sup>6</sup> Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.” (1 John 2:3-6 NIV)*

- John uses the greek word, *ginoæskoæ*, for the English word “know”, which literally means **a knowledge that is gained through experience**”
- *To know God is to keep his commands, and to keep his commands is to know God.* The word “keep” that John uses here in regard to God’s commandments means, **to guard by keeping the eye upon to prevent from escaping.**
- How ludicrous it is to say that you have come to know God through your experience with Him if you refuse to obey Him. In fact, John says, you’re a bold faced liar!
- The reality is, we are living, breathing examples of who Jesus is, walking in His righteousness, as displayed trophies of His grace.

### So What?

Ask yourself...

1. Do I desire to live a sinless life?
2. Do I understand that if I am a child of God, I have been declared righteous; my good deeds or sinful actions will not add to or detract from this righteousness?
3. Do I also understand, that as one who has been declared righteous, I am responsible to obey God’s word, and share His love, as a natural outflow of my righteousness?

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