

THE ADVOCACY OF JESUS' LOVE

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1 John 2:1-11



1 JOHN
JESUS' LOVE CHANGES EVERYTHING

1. THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

1 JOHN 2:1a My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.

• Notice John's heart for the Churches: "Little Children." And his desire: "That you may not sin."

1 JOHN 2:1b But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

• John calls Jesus the Righteous One, and he means it—*John was an eye-witness to Jesus' sinless life!*

• He's also reminding us of Jesus' **RESURRECTION** to eternal life—*He lives FOREVER as our Advocate!*

• **Q.** But what does he mean by Advocate? **A.** An Advocate is someone you have fellowship with so that whatever the advocate achieves, you achieve, whatever the advocate loses, you lose. *Substitute/Representative

• In Ancient times, each army would have what they called a "Champion/Advocate."

• One of the most famous (*and, honestly, most misunderstood!*) stories in the entire Old Testament is a story of an Advocate. **Q.** Do you know the story of David and Goliath?

• The sobering news of the gospel is that **YOU ARE NOT DAVID.** *You're one of the Israelites shaking in your boots, unable to deal with your real problem—the Giant that threatens you.*

• The good news of the gospel is that **JESUS IS THE GREATER DAVID.** *He's the one who stands as your representative & has dealt with your True Enemy—SIN. And through faith in Him, you get to reap all the rewards of His victory!*

• So the foundation of the Christian life both now and forever is **NOT** our sinlessness, or even in our growing to be more more and more sinless; **NO!** The foundation of the Christian life **IS** that we have a representative before God and He is perfectly sinless on our behalf! If our trust is in Jesus alone, "we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

• In Him, we never get the bad we deserve; We only the good that He he earned for us. He is the exalted Righteous One who stands in heaven on our behalf!

• And yet His path to exaltation as our Advocate with the Father was low, brutal, & full of suffering.

1 JOHN 2:2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

• Propitiation, there it is. That's ultimately how Jesus is our Righteous Advocate with the Father! This is one of the most important words you could ever learn. In fact, as **J.I. Packer** says, "Propitiation is the heart of the gospel!"

• PROPITIATION ("*hilasmos*"): the turning away of wrath. **Q.** How? In **Rom. 3** "BY HIS BLOOD."

• This word, right here, though it is only explicitly used 4 times in the New Testament, is the heart of what Jesus actually did on the cross. **Q.** What does John mean by, "He is the PROPITIATION for our sins?"

• ON THE CROSS, 1ST, God took ALL OF OUR SIN—*every sin of every person that will be saved*—and poured it into a mold that completely covered Jesus—As Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5, Jesus became our sin.

• 2ND, God took ALL OF HIS WRATH against our sin—*all His righteous anger, all the judicial punishment we deserve for our Cosmic Treason*—He poured into a cup, and Jesus drank it.

• John is saying, "Jesus is our perfect Advocate before the Father because He has totally dealt with our UNrighteousness!"

• If Jesus is your Righteous Advocate who made Propitiation for your sins, there needs be...

1) No more "Am I being good ENOUGH?" anxiety over your failed attempts to righteous.

2) No more "How am I ever going to get right with God?" fear over your sins.

3) No more "What's going to happen to me when I die?" nervousness about where you will be for eternity.

• **JOHN PIPER:** "The advocacy of Christ & the propitiation of Christ are part of one saving work, because the portfolio of Christ the advocate is Christ the propitiator. What he pleads on our behalf in heaven is the ongoing effects of his own death. And John means for this double role of Christ to keep us from despairing when we fall into sin."

• **HEBREWS 7:25** Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

- Now, John details just what someone's life LOOKS LIKE if Jesus is truly their Advocate with the Father...
- He gives us Mark of a *Real* Christian, and Marks of a *Fake* Christian.
- Marks seen in someone's life that *HAS* Jesus as their Advocate, and Marks seen in someone's life who *NEEDS JESUS TO BECOME* their Advocate.

2. MARKS OF A *REAL* CHRISTIAN (SOMEONE WHO HAS JESUS AS THEIR ADVOCATE)

1 JOHN 2:3, 5, 6, 10 3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments... 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked...10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.

3. MARKS OF A *FAKE* CHRISTIAN (SOMEONE WHO NEEDS JESUS TO BECOME THEIR ADVOCATE)

1 JOHN 2:4, 9, 11 4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ... 9 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. ... 11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

• C.S. Lewis gave us helpful good insight when he wrote, "[To have Faith in Christ] means, of course, trying to do all that He says. There would be no sense in saying you trusted a person if you would not take his advice. Thus if you have really handed yourself over to Him, it must follow that you are trying to obey Him. But trying in a new way, a less worried way. Not doing these things in order to be saved, but because He has begun to save you already. Not hoping to get to Heaven as a reward for your actions, but inevitably wanting to act in a certain way because a first faint gleam of Heaven is already inside you."

• **Saying you trust Jesus with your eternal destiny yet rejecting Him in your everyday life—by not keeping His commandments, not walking in the same way in which he walked—is like saying you trust someone with all of your investments and retirement portfolio yet not trusting them with your debit card for a fast food run.**

Jesus is not simply the Savior to be admired; He is the King to be worshiped & obeyed! To put it bluntly, It's quite insane for us to say we trust Jesus with our *ETERNAL DESTINY* and not trust Him in our *EVERYDAY LIFE*.

1 JOHN 2:7-8 7 Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. 8 At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because ***the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.***