

1 John 2:1-6

When you read 1 John 1:9, it can seem that John could have been giving people permission to live however they want, because after all, they can confess their sin again and again and again and always have joyful assurance.

He sees that one coming so he makes a very clear statement in verses 1-6 of chapter 2.

READ/PRAY

I. The Standard **v1a** *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.*

Just in case you think that John is advocating being tolerant of sin in your life, he makes it pretty clear right here that that is not the case.

Far from tolerating sin, I would have you to aim at being sinless.

We must assume it to be possible not to sin, when we walk in the open fellowship of God, and in his pure light; ESPECIALLY not to sin in this or that particular way in which we have sinned before, and in which we are apt to be afraid of sinning again.

My little children, these things write I unto you that ye sin not... believe these things; realise them; act upon them; act them out. They are such things as, if believed, realised, acted upon and acted out, will make it possible for you not to sin.

Genesis 17:1-2 *Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless. "I will establish My covenant between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly."*

- a. God had already approached Abram in Genesis 12 where he told Abram to follow him
- b. He had approached him in Genesis 15 and in verse 6 declared him righteous
- c. But now, he approaches him again...and commands him to walk blameless
 1. I am already blameless...counted righteous by faith...yes and no
 2. Walk blameless!
- d. This is not unique to Genesis 17
 1. Matthew 5:48 *You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*
 2. Ephesians 1:4 *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.*
 3. 1 Thessalonians 5:23 *Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Do we agree today that one sin is too much sin!

1. If you hide one rebel in your house, you are a traitor, and if we allow one sin to live in us, we are a traitorous hypocrite.
2. Thomas Watson said, *"If there is only one nest egg, the devil can brood on it. One dead fly will spoil the whole box of precious ointment. A drop of poison will spoil a whole glass of wine. One disease is enough to kill. One millstone will sink a man into the sea as well as 100."*
3. A soldier that has one gap in his armor, can be shot in that spot and killed. He may as well have no armor on at all.

Matthew 18:8-9 *And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.*

Are we sparring with sin instead of really fighting sin to the death. Are we fencing with our enemy instead of really seeking run him through with the sword of the Spirit.

Sometimes indeed there appears a scuffle between Satan and a carnal heart, but it is a mere cheat, like the fighting of two fencers on a stage. You would think at first they were in earnest, but observing how wary they are, and where they hit one another; you may soon know they do not mean to kill; and that which puts all out of doubt, when the prize is done you shall see them making merry together with what they have got of their spectators, which was all they fought for. When a carnal heart makes the greatest bustle against sin by complaining of it, or praying against it, follow him but off the stage of duty, where he hath gained the reputation of a saint—the prize he fights for—and you shall see them sit as friendly together in a corner as ever. William Gurnall

1. We cannot fence with our sin. We cannot shadow box our sin. Our sin must be decapitated!
2. Half hearted efforts will not give us victory.
3. There must be 0 compromise with the world, there must be 0 provision for the flesh, and 0 mercy with our sin.
4. It is a life and death matter.
5. Romans 8:13 *for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

Let it be deliberately set before you as your fixed and settled purpose that you are not to sin; not merely that you are to sin as little as you can; but that you are not to sin at all.

It is but too true that in all that we do we come short of this sinless aim. That, however, is no reason for our not only anticipating fault or failure, but acquiescing in the anticipation.

The things which John writes unto us make the anticipation no wild dream, but a possible attainment.

—would you sin if a knife was to your throat and you were about to be decapitated if you fall??

Our goal, should be God's goal: blamelessness!

1. And we need to stop pretending like that is just preacher talk.
2. 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 *Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. 13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.*

The Advocate v1b

And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

Advocate: One who pleads the cause of another in a court of civil law.

Why then is provision made for our sinning?? John assumes that we are in earnest; that sin is to us exceeding sinful, and holiness above all things desirable.

“We have purposed in good faith that we will not offend. We rejoice to think that we may now form that purpose with good heart; not desperately, as if we were upon a forlorn hope; but rather as grasping the

victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ. For he is with us. He cheers us on. He assures us of success. And when, at any time, he sees some lurking apprehension of failure or defeat stealing into our souls again to discourage us; when he sees that we are getting nervous about the risk of our making some mistake, or meeting with some check or reverse, and that this very nervousness is unhinging and unmaning us; he tells us not to think too much of it, but to press on; for he is beside us, to help us if we should stumble—to lift us if we should fall—If any of us sin, we have an advocate with the Father.”
73-74 Chandlish

He is always beside us, our advocate with the Father. We need not therefore be afraid to walk with the Father in the light. WE may walk, too often unsteadfastly....we may give new offense...we may incur new blame. But see! There is the intercessor every pleading for us.

Jesus Christ the Righteous: Revelation 5

The Propitiation v2

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

Propitiation: The act of appeasing wrath and conciliating the favor of an offended person; the act of making propitious.

Romans 5:8-11 *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

This is not something we can keep to ourselves!!! H is the propitiation for our sins...but not just ours. He is the propitiation for the world!

The Great Commission

The Evidence: Our walk v3-6

3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

By this, we know that we have come to know Him (the advocate...our propitiation)...if we keep His commandments. We walk as He walked!!!!

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new

1 John 2:3-4 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him

1 John 3:6-9 Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might

destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

Rev 21:7-8 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

1 Cor 6:9-11 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Matthew 21:28-31 (there was a heart change)

Matt 7:21 Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.