

1 John 1:5-2:2 The Believer and Sin

Now if you are new to Calvary Vista or joining us again for the first time in a while

A) You picked a great time to come to Church.

B) We just started a new study in the book of 1 John

1) here at CV we like to study books of the Bible – Chapter...Verse by verse

C) We believe this is the best way to learn the Bible and grow in our relationship with Jesus

We started this study last Sunday

A) 1 John was written by the Apostle John – one of Jesus 12 disciples

B) Written later in his life – AD 85-90 – John is an old man at this point

C) This is prior to him writing the book of Rev.

D) We looked at V.1-4 today we are picking up in v.5

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. Pray

Back in the early 1980's there was a new movement that started in the Christian church here in America

A) Known as the seeker sensitive movement!

B) And a lot of the teaching in that church movement centered around the idea that Jesus would make your life more successful

C) Churches would do series where they would teach on how to have a successful life, business, marriage

In the series, principles from Business and or Psychology would be mixed with the Bible

A) The series were designed to attract seekers – or non-churched people into the church.

B) The teachings would include a lot self-help methods to improve your life – to make a better you.

1) With the caveat that the key to this better life – was believing in Jesus and giving your heart to Jesus.

C) Hugely popular – many churches grew in size because of that approach

I don't know that the Apostle John would have agree entirely with that Philosophy of ministry.

A) Consider At the time of this writing John is over 80 yrs old

B) He is probably the last of the 12 original apostles alive.

C) He was one of the Big 3 among the 12 –

1) Jesus often singled out Peter James and John for special assignments and time with him

John has already witnessed his brother James get beheaded for being a follower of Jesus

A) His good friend Peter was also killed by the Romans – Crucified upside down

B) Many if not all of his other friends the original Disciples have died a Martyrs death

C) In fact even the great Apostle Paul has been killed by the Romans at this point–

1) John is the last man standing.

D) From a purely physical or worldly perspective their lives were not successful

1) Paul's wife and family abandoned him after he became a Christian

E) All of the apostles experienced great poverty in their following of Jesus

In so many ways John's life in following Jesus didn't get physically better.

A) Prior to becoming a follower of Jesus John was a simple fisherman

B) Just a normal guy running a fishing business with his brother James

C) Then this guy Jesus shows up on the Shores of Galilee and says-

1) leave your boats – come follow me – FISH FOR MEN

John's life Changed at that point – became a lot more complicated – became Dangerous

A) John wouldn't have traded it for the world

B) John spent the next 3 years of his life – following Jesus – doing life with Jesus – learning from Jesus –

C) He lost much from an early stand point – but gained so much more from a Spiritual stand point

We saw in our study last week in the opening 4 verses that John is so excited about Jesus –

A) About knowing Jesus – life in Jesus –

B) He says to his readers – I am writing this because

1) I want all of you to experience the same fellowship with Jesus that we enjoy

C) Saw Jesus die on the Cross – Raise again – Changed everything for him

D) Life became about Knowing Jesus and making him Known

Heart was filled with Joy even in the midst of difficulty and persecution.

A) John writes saying – We want you to experience this life in Jesus as well

B) Because Life in Jesus brings a fullness of Joy to your life / heart!

John does something interesting in the writing of his epistle –

A) He actually gives us 5 reasons why this book was written.

- 1:4 So you can experience fullness of Joy! -
⁴ And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.
- 2:1 So you will not live in a continual state of sin - My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin.
- 2:26 So you can avoid being deceived by false teachers and false Doctrine - ²⁶ These

things I have written to you concerning those who *try to* deceive you.

➤ 5:13 That you may know that you have eternal life – Assurance of eternal life ¹³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

➤ 5:13b – That you would continue to believe! ¹³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.

We talked about the first of these reasons in our study last week –

A) So you can experience fullness of Joy!

B) Today we come to V.5 John sums up one of the biggest truths He learned from Following Jesus

C) This truth is key to following Jesus and enjoying life in Christ

^{V.5} This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

When John says that God is light and in him is no darkness at all – he is speaking metaphorically

A) Telling us something about the nature of God – God is Light!

B) God as Light conveys two critical truths: light as revelation and light as holiness.

C) Light reveals things: Turn on the light to see how things really are.

1) Where things really are. What things really are

D) John has already conveyed to us in his Gospel the idea that Jesus is “the Light of the World” who revealed God to us.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God.

⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

⁵ And the light shined in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. The one and only Son, who is himself God and is at the Father's side—he has revealed him. John 1:18

E) So light Reveals

But Light also speaks of Holiness – especially when John adds and in him is no darkness at all.

A) John is wanting us to Note- That God is holy – unequivocally Pure.

B) Paul said this of God in 1 Timothy 6:16 that God dwells in unapproachable light

C) Isaiah the prophet said of God – he is the high and lofty one whose name is Holy Isaiah 57:15

Moses asked the question: Who is like you O Lord... glorious in holiness, awesome in splendor, performing great wonders? Exodus 15:11

A) David said in Psalm 99:3 God is awesome in his holiness

B) God's Holiness speaks of His perfection – Complete Righteousness – He is separated from sin.

C) Because of God's being Holy-

1) when man sinned in the Garden it created a separation between God and man

Prior to the Fall – Adam the first man – walked with God – take walks in the garden

A) After the fall – the walks ceased – stopped –

B) Now there was a separation between Holy God and sinful man – Darkness can't exist in the light

1) That is actually what the Bible refers to as the Ultimate death – to be separated from God – outer dark

C) The Bible declares we were all dead (separated from God) in our trespasses and sin –

1) Being in Darkness –

D) God is light – and we were in the Darkness

But God did something to Change that – He sent his beloved Son Jesus – leave heaven – become a man

A) Dwell among us – Live life – perfect man – to Reveal God to us

B) Jesus put on Flesh and blood – walked in our shoes – lived our life

C) Lived in our Sinful world – Through Him the light of God invaded our darkness

Jesus came to bring sinful men and women out of the dark and into his Marvelous light

A) That happens when a person turns from their sin and embraces Jesus as their Savior – He paid the price – Died and rose

B) When a person puts their faith in Jesus a radical transformation occurs in their life – COMPLETE STATUS CHANGE

C) Paul the Apostle describes it this way in Colossians 1:12-13 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:12-14

D) Transferred – Venmo – Money from my account into your account

E) When we come to Christ we are literally taken out of Darkness and transferred into the light

1) Complete Status Change – Complete Address Change

Now Because we have been taken out of darkness and brought into the Light –

A) God wants us to now Walk in the Light as he is in the Light

B) Another way to put that is to be Holy as He is Holy.

¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, “*Be holy, for I am holy.*” 1 Peter 1:14-16

C) Not conforming to your former lust – You are a new Creation in Christ –

1) Be Who you are in Jesus instead of who you used to be in your flesh

Be Holy!

A) Be holy where? In all your conduct – Church conduct? – mean only when you are at church

B) Is He talking only about your public conduct? – not your private conduct? – only around other people

C) Word All in the Greek – means all

1) SO Be holy in all your conduct

So John is basically clearing up the thinking that says I can live anyway I want to

A) because I am under grace. Or because I have been forgiven

B) In John's day there was this false teaching that was circulating by a group known as Gnostics

C) The Gnostics – weird ideas about Jesus – wasn't divine – Christ consciousness came on him- baptism

1) Left at Cross

D) Others taught Jesus was more of a phantom

The Gnostics taught that because God is spirit and you are a spiritual being –

A) what you do with your body doesn't matter

B) Doesn't affect your relationship with God

C) That is Wrong: How we live matters to God. God is light and in him is no darkness at all

D) He has called us out of the darkness – Walk in the light – as a new Creation –

E) PUT OFF THE OLD – PUT ON THE NEW - be who you are in Jesus not who you were in the flesh

So God is calling us to live a Holy Life – to walk in the Light as he is in the light.

A) This is the theme that he is going to build upon and circle back to over and over again in this book

B) Showing us what Walking in the light means – what it looks like

C) What are the benefits - ⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

D) Sweet reality – as we walk in the light we enjoy sweet fellowship with God and with each other – cleansed by the blood of Jesus

But here is the thing: It doesn't take very long after coming to follow Jesus that you realize – sin is STILL going to be a REAL issue in your life

A) You are still going to sin – because you are human – and you are living in a fallen world – in a broken body

B) Even the great apostle Paul – who was probably the strongest Christian who has ever lived –

BB) expressed the struggle with sin this way – maybe you can relate

And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.
Romans 7:18-19 NLT

C) So we experience this battle in our flesh with sin

Here in John Ch. 1 John gives us 3 wrong ways to deal with sin and ONE right way to deal with sin
A) Wrong ways: #1 V.6 It is wrong to walk in sin (darkness)

B) Not talking about taking a midnight stroll or walking your dog at night

C) John mentions two words in V.6 that speak of lifestyle – Walk and practice

Walking together speaks of doing life – On a Journey

A) Walking is intentional – deliberate – Denise lets go walk at the beach today –

B) Every day when I get home from work – one of the first things I do is take our dog for a Walk.

C) So When John says - Don't walk in darkness – don't be intentionally walking or living in sin –
1) SAYING - Don't allow sinful behavior to be a normal part of your Christian life

The other word that John uses is the word – practice

V.6 Practice the truth idea vs practice sin

A)Those who practice sin – Habit forming –

B)My grandson Josiah practices bball –

1)Practice makes perfect – Practice so that the moves you are practicing become 2nd nature –

C)I don't have to think about – hands up on defense – 2nd nature

D)Don't practice sin – DON'T WALK IN IT - don't allow it to become habit forming in your life

So John says if we are walking in darkness – continuing in it – intentional about our sin –

A)We are not practicing truth – not practicing holiness

B)Instead We lie = Hypocrisy – we are living a lie – our behavior us not matching our profession

C)So the first thing he says regarding sin is don't walk in sin – Don't walk in darkness

D)This first thing that John mentions is sort of the Big Picture – How you choose to walk

1) Defines who you are going to be

E)The next two wrong approaches to sin – describe the starting points of how you end up walking in sin

1)Walking in darkness

#2 V.8 Don't ignore sin – Don't say I don't have any sin –

A)Don't say - I am all good.

B)See we all have done this at times. – I have and you have

C)We can have the tendency to focus on our lives that are going well – doing good.

1)Completely ignore areas where we are blowing it – Falling short terribly

That would be like going to a doctor – pain in your chest. – Doctor I have this pain in my chest

A)Now if your doctor examines you and says – hey hands are great – feet are awesome – love the hair

B)Never addresses the pain in your chest –

C)you will be frustrated right – come on that is why I am here

1)But he just ignores the real problem – You could die

D)That is what we do with our sin – Doing so well in these 3 areas –

1)This thing I am struggling with is not a big deal

Sometimes we do this by comparing ourselves to people around us.

A)Some guy – lousy husband – treats his wife poorly – I am such a great husband

B)Jesus is the standard – if he is the standard – always room to grow and improve

C)Notice what he says: If you ignore your sin - If you say you don't have any sin who are you deceiving?

D)Deceiving God?

1)No he sees through the façade – he sees through the charade

E)You might be deceiving your friends – deceiving your spouse – but in reality –

1)you are really deceiving yourself

God calls us to Holiness – He is interested in the whole heart –

A)He is interested in every part of you.

B)God is like a master surgeon – who wants to DEAL with the ROOT issue

1)He wants to make you whole

C)His goal is to conform you into the image of his own dear sin – make you more like Jesus

So we can't ignore sin

A)I have had people tell me over the years that they quit attending CV

B)Because every time they came here – leave feeling bad about themselves – they didn't like that

C)They were attributing that to my preaching – it's not my preaching

1)it is the Holy Spirit working through the Word of God

D) Listen God loves you and he didn't save you to keep you like you are

1) He saved you to make you more like Jesus –

E) So #1 Don't walk in Sin

#2 Don't Ignore sin – If you ignore sin it only grows – it spreads

#3 V.10 Don't redefine sin – If we say we have not sinned -

A) Idea something is pointed out as wrong – WE SAY THAT IS NOT SIN

B) This is an epidemic in our world today

C) We live in a world that loves to take what God clearly says in his word is Sin – and redefine it

D) That is not a sin – it is a disease – a weakness – a struggle – a Failure

D) Not a sin – that is an alternative lifestyle

People love to Excuse away sin today.

A) Examples. The Bible clearly says that cohabitating with your boyfriend and girlfriend is a sin – Sexual immorality

B) Well God knows our situation – we love each other – he is ok with it

1) We are going to get married anyway

C) Adultery – God knows how difficult my marriage was – He is ok with it – Deserve to be happy

Years ago a young Couple with a Child and baby dedication – not married – why ?

A) See the Problem in that We want to dedicate our child to the Lord –

B) but the problem is they were not dedicated to the Lord.

Other ways we try to redefine sin.

A) We justify or rationalize bad behavior by making the excuses – I'm Italian – I am not angry -just passionate –

B) Why are you yelling – not yelling – Us Italians just talk loud

C) We justify things like Bitterness – unforgiveness- I have a right to feel this way –

1) we redefine ourselves as the VICTIM

I Heard the story about a pastor in Oregon – got in his car one day – hot coco – dash board - driving down a country road

A) Hits a pot hole – spills – all over him –

B) So mad – Complaining about the pot hole – and the officials in his county

1) lousy job they did not taking care of the roads

C) After going on a 5min rant – The Lord Spoke to him and said- Who poured the Cocoa into the cup?

1) Who brought the cup into the car – who put the cup of cocoa on the dashboard – me

D) The Pothole didn't cause the cup to spill – it just revealed what was in the cup

The Bible says that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks – reveals what is in our hearts

A) Bumps just reveal what is inside of us – what is wrong with us.

B) We need to Learn to ask the question: Not what is wrong with her / him – what is wrong with me.

1) Why did that bug me so much.

**C) So three wrong responses to sin:
– Don't walk in sin – Don't ignore sin
– Don't try to redefine what God says is sin**

Now here is the right response – V.9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A) To Confess means 2 things – 1st it can mean to admit the wrong! - I sinned – I blew it

B) But the Greek word for confess is even stronger – Hupolego – to say the same as

C) Instead of rationalizes sin – making excuses for sin – we confess it – we call it what God calls it – Sin –

D) Blew it big time – that was wrong

Two wonderful benefits to this right response to sin –⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to #1 forgive us *our* sins and #2 to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A)Forgiven – put as far as the east is from the west –
Forgiven and forgotten -

B)Thrown into the sea of God’s forgetfulness – NO
FISHING

C)Not just forgiven but cleansed – made clean –
Removal

Sin leaves a stain on our hearts – guilty stain –
condemnation

A)King David wrote in Psalm 32 – after committed
adultery with Bathsheba – pregnant – had her
husband murder to cover up

B)Marries the Widow – what a great King – so
compassionate

C)He had hidden his sin from everyone but himself
and God

1)For 9 months – guilt ridden – he writes about it in
Psalm 32

He essentially said when I refused to repent – my
body wasted away.

A)Lost all strength- plagued day and night by this
inner turmoil

B)That is what guilt does to us – but when we
confess our sin – God forgives our sin –

1)and cleanses us from all unrighteousness

C)Guilt is removed – weight of our sin is lifted –
FREE - GLORIOUS

NOW This is what we need to understand about God
and his forgiving of Sin - -

A)God’s forgiveness of sin is not simply a heart act –

B)Ok I am feeling good today – I will forgive you. –
But you better not do it again

C)That is how we are with one another – OUR KIDS

**D)God’s Forgiveness and Cleansing is a Judicial
Act**

See God in his Holiness can’t simply forgive sin –
excuse THE sin – that would not be Just –

A)Part of his holiness is his justice or righteousness
What he does is always right –

B)God’s righteousness and Justice is the perfect
blending of Grace and truth

1)Always a Right response – Just response – loving
response

C)We are incapable of that in our world

Example - If someone committed a Crime – Killed
someone – Property damage

A)A Judge Condemned – them we would say – That
was Just – that criminal got what he deserved

B)If the Judge just let them off the hook with no
penalty – maybe a warning –

1)we would say that was gracious

C)Grace is getting what you don’t deserve –

1)But that response was NOT JUST

D)THE FAMILY OF THE VICTIM – JUSTICE
WAS NOT SERVED HERE TODAY –

E)One thing we learn in 1 JOHN THAT God is light
but also God is love

**God is able to be both gracious and just in dealing
with our sin –**

John tells us how in Ch. 2:1-2

¹ My little children, these things I write to you, so that
you may not sin. (Context – don’t walk in sin practice
sin) And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with
the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² And He
Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for
ours only but also for the whole world.

If anyone sins – and we all do – we have an advocate
– a defense attorney –

A)Jesus Christ the righteous – the perfect man – no
sin

B)Because Jesus is the perfect man who never sinned

1)he was able to offer himself pay the price for our
sin

C)John says in V.2 Jesus is the Propitiation = the
satisfaction for our sin

D)We sin – Our Conscience Condemns us – Satan
condemns us – drags us into court – look what Rob...

E)He doesn’t deserve your love

1)He tells us God is done with you-

Then our Defense attorney stands up and says – ALL TRUE!

A)However – I already satisfied the requirement – I paid the fine – I took the punishment – paid in full

B)Rob has confessed that – repented of it – turned away from it

C)And the Judge says – All is forgiven – The Sin is removed –

1)No more guilt – Rob is free man – New man Forgiven and cleansed –

If you've ever been convicted of a Felony –hard to get off your record – always ask – haunts you

A)That is not ON God's record – GONE !!!

B)Because of What Jesus did – we get to experience the Wonder and Joy of Ch. 1:7

⁷But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

C)James 5:16 – Confess your sin one to another