

## ***That You May Know – 1 John 2:1-6***

“We pursue being a disciple making family: *surrendered to Jesus, transformed by the gospel, and **saturated in His word.***”

John points out in this text that what we say should line up with what we do. The Gnostics were promoting the belief that all things material were evil therefore what one did in the flesh really didn't matter. John clearly corrects this thought process and clearly ties salvation in Christ to a life that is changed by the grace of Christ. It begins somewhat of a “lie detector” test for people by the phrase “if we say.” He deals directly with the issue of sin. Maybe a topic that we don't like to talk about or discuss and in recent years has been explained away or ignored all together. Let's look at a few questions from this text.

### **Discussion Questions\* -- \*do not feel the pressure to cover them all**

1. John points out in 1 John 2:6 that whoever claims to abide in Christ must walk as Jesus did. This entire section deals with the claim to abide in Christ and also the walk we should have because of this relationship. John is writing this so that believers would not sin. However, he points out that if one should sin that Jesus is our “advocate” before the Father. He is our “propitiation.” A “*propitiation*” (NASB) is a word that means “a sacrifice that bears God's wrath to the end and in so doing changes God's wrath toward us into favor.”<sup>1</sup> Jesus has not only justified us before the Father but also intercedes for us now. How do you practically view sin? How does the sacrifice of Jesus impact the way you view and respond to your sin?
2. John was writing to point out that we will continue to sin after we are saved and rescued though our heart has changed. Sin will not be the habit or desire of our hearts. He points out that a way that we know we are saved is that we will obey God's commandments. It will be our desire to follow His commands. We know that we are in Him if we keep His commandments. How does this help us find security in our relationship with Christ? Based on this passage how would you counsel someone who was wrestling with their security of salvation?
3. There is an issue pointed out in this text that because the Gnostics saw material as evil then what was done in the flesh didn't matter and people could do whatever they wanted to. We may not run into this specific worldview struggle today, but we do see other similar thoughts. What are some current thoughts, beliefs, and worldview systems that make our sin not a big deal? How do they impact wrong beliefs of the gospel? The other extreme is the “loss of salvation” because we sin and the need to

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<sup>1</sup> Grudem, W. A. (2004). [\*Systematic theology: an introduction to biblical doctrine\*](#) (p. 575). Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House.

constantly be “getting saved” over and over again. How does this text refute this thought? How does this thought fuel willful sin or legalism?

4. What is the most encouraging part of this text for you as a Christian? What is the most challenging part for you? As we walk in Christ we will begin to reflect His character in our own life.
5. Who is someone you know that may wrestle with one of the opposing views of sin (willful sin or legalism) for whom you can pray? Who do you know today that needs to experience the gospel that is discussed here? Pray for them.