

Sunday, April 23, 2023

## Joyful Holiness

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1 John 2:1-6

Please turn to 1 John 2:1, pg. 1021 in the Pew Bibles. Read, Pray

Before you sit, turn to the right or left and give yourself some room to take a step. Before you do, I want you to take this step like Jesus. Think about it... ready? Take a step. Did it change things? The way you took that step? How?

Take a seat. Today, let's redefine Holiness in the context of JOY! My title this morning is **"Joyful Holiness"**

Intro-Author of 1 John, Likely the Apostle John, who also wrote the Gospel of John, writes with a point.

In the Gospel of John he writes why he wrote it.

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:30-31

1 John is no different. He says "I write these things" 4x in this short letter.

1:4- JOY / 2:1- Holiness / 2:26- Truth / 5:13- Assurance \*Note the similarity to John 20:31. If you truly believe, then your walk will look like this... Review

Not perfection, direction

And that direction gives you assurance so that at the end of life there will be no doubt you are with God enjoying eternal life! A part of walk is **Joyful Holiness**

**Vs. 1a-** May not sin. Addressing Gnosticism. That there was a separation between the physical body and your spirit so that it didn't matter what you did, your spirit was perfect. So, you could be a child of heaven but live like hell. Sounds good, but it lacks the truth of transformation.

-caterpillar-> butterfly. You have wings, fly! If you have wings, you won't crawl around on your belly like a caterpillar anymore. BUT, you still will blow it.

**Vs. 1b- But if anyone does sin...**

-This speaks to reality of the Christian life. You will sin BUT... we have an ADVOCATE. Means Helper.

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another *Helper*, to be with you forever, John 14:16

How does Jesus Help us? 1. Gift of repentance that we talked about last week. And just like all of the Bible, especially the epistles or letters written in the NT, He tethers the Christian life back to the Gospel.

**Vs. 2-** Propitiation- Satisfaction. Or as the NIV renders, atoning sacrifice.

When he served as a sacrifice for our sins, he solved the sin problem for good—not only ours, but the whole world's. 1 John 2:2 (MSG)

Video-Jesus transfers his holiness to us and we transfer healing and restoration to the world! What a joy!!!

**Joyful Holiness**

**Vs. 3** We know that we know. How, by keeping his commandments. But here's why it's joyful and not rigid morality...

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our

faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 1 John 5:3-5

Reference back to taking a step like Jesus.

-Jesus is cool. All religions think so!

Who is Jesus and how did he walk? Why is there a disconnect when it comes to who Jesus is but when it comes to walking like Jesus there is a heaviness?

It's not rigid morality, it's **Joyful Holiness**

BUT... Some have a false assurance of heaven.

#### **Read Vs. 4**

-Say a prayer, get a ticket to heaven. Again, this lacks TRANSFORMATION! You go from death to life! (Butterfly example) And throughout the entire letter of 1 John you will hear this... If you truly are saved, you *will* live differently! And they are not commands, YOU NEED To Live Different, Simple truths, here's how you know! In other words, You can't say you are a *Child of heaven but live like hell...*

"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. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.' Matthew 7:21-23

Examine your life... It's either good news or bad news, but it's NEVER TOO LATE! You can have an assurance of...

**Joyful Holiness**

## **Read Vs. 5**

Truly the love of God is Perfected!

-Video reference holy means "Utterly unique"

-Our way of life makes us unique! Jesus makes us holy, so we live into that holiness,

but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:15-16

but it's not defined as simply moral purity, but our "conduct" is defined by the LOVE OF GOD being perfected in us!

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:10

## **Read vs. 6**

**Describe Jesus. Tell stories based on time. Walk like him...**

**Joyful Holiness**

**Communion**

## STUDY NOTES

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### 1 John 2:1-6

Main Point-Utterly Unique

Key Words-Sin 4x, Know 3x, Keep 3x

Key Verse-vs. 5 Love of God Perfected

FCF-Say "I know him" but walks in a different direction than Jesus→Liar, no truth.

General God Key Words Command Truth Sin

[1] My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. [2] He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. [3] And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. [4] Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, [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.

### Initial Thoughts

Structure.

Purpose statement anchored to the Gospel→ Advocate/Propitiation.

Implications→ How do we know? We are keeping his commands.

If not, ya don't know.

BUT, if you do→ Love of God is Perfected

Walk

Verse by verse

2:1, Second purpose statement; **may not sin**.

-Holiness involves moral purity (clean), but it is not limited to this. It's defined as *utterly unique*<sup>1</sup>, thus the one who's walk (direction) is in the light (less and less sin), living like

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<sup>1</sup> The Bible Project, <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/holiness/>

Jesus & keeping his word, (vs. 5) is *utterly unique*... holy, because the love of God is perfected (finished, completed, see [John 19:30](#)) in him.

-BUT if anyone does sin, gives context to [1 John 1:7 w/ vs. 9](#). It's not perfection, but direction. **We have an advocate** (Same word that describes the Holy Spirit, see [John 14:16-Helper](#))

2:2, **He is the Propitiation**- Satisfaction, Atoning Sacrifice (NIV),

**sins of the world**- Need to study this in light of limited atonement.

2:3, **we know...** *that we know him*, assurance (see [5:13](#)), how? Keep his commandments, again, not perfection, but direction ([1:6](#)).

2:4, Very simply, FCF, if someone says they are a Christian but they walk in a different direction, then he's lying to himself and others and does not recognize truth.

2:5, **Keeps**: "to preserve," "to protect," "to guard"<sup>2</sup> ([John 17:11-12](#)) God keeps us—>we keep his way. Ties into holiness; utterly unique/ kingdom living/ The WAY of JESUS! He who lives in such a way the love of God is perfected in him!!!

2:6, He who abides in Jesus, strides like Jesus.

## Translations

ESV-[1] My \*little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an \*advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

NIV-My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

NASB-Same as ESV

NJKV-Same

CEB-Adds "One" (see NIV)

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<sup>2</sup> *Theological dictionary of the New Testament* (electronic ed., Vol. 8, p. 142)

NLT-My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous.

MSG-I write this, dear children, to guide you out of sin. But if anyone does sin, we have a Priest-Friend in the presence of the Father: Jesus Christ, righteous Jesus.

\*Dear vs. little children, a quick greek word study opens the context to possibly say "my good friends' or 'my dear friends' or 'my dear comrades.' In this context, not age, but the connotation of affection and endearment is in focus<sup>3</sup> (See [Jn 21:5](#)), yet likely and more commonly used, it is child ('little' is assumed) but clearly an affectionate term.

Advocate; Paraklete, which means helper (see [John 14:16](#))

ESV-[2] He is the \*propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

NIV-He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

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

NJKV-Same as ESV

CEB-He himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world.

NLT-He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.

MSG-When he served as a sacrifice for our sins, he solved the sin problem for good—not only ours, but the whole world's. 1 John 2:2 (MSG)

\***Propitiation** (Read article) vs. \***Atoning** sacrifice. The main idea is our sin is \*expiated through Jesus' sacrifice thus satisfied.

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<sup>3</sup> [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#)

Expiation ;the act of extinguishing the guilt incurred by something. The act or process of making atonement for something

**ESV-[3] And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.**

NIV-We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands.

NASB, NKJV, CEB- Similar to ESV

NLT-And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments.

MSG-Here's how we can be sure that we know God in the right way: Keep his commandments.

**ESV-[4] Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him**

NIV-Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.

NASB-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;

NJKV & CEB- Same as ESV

NLT-If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth.

MSG-If someone claims, "I know him well!" but doesn't keep his commandments, he's obviously a liar. \*His life doesn't match his words.

\*I like the simplicity of this verse. The MSG says it well, His life doesn't match his words

**ESV-[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.**



NIV-But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

NASB-but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

NJKV-But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

CEB-But whoever keeps his word, truly in him the love of God is made complete. This is how we know we are in him: The one who says he remains in him should walk just as he walked.

NLT-But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

MSG-But the one who keeps God's word is the person in whom we see God's mature love. This is the only way to be sure we're in God. Anyone who claims to be intimate with God ought to live the same kind of life Jesus lived.

\*The differences in translations give the depth to this statement; Perfect, complete, mature love of God is seen & shown.

## People

The author, John- "I am writing..." which switches from "we" in Chp. 1.

Believers- "Little Children". We can know true believers by the way they "walk/ Keep commandments"

The Father, assumed as Judge of sin- "we have an advocate, Jesus"

Jesus- the righteous, who advocates, propitiates our sins, as well as all others who are Christians. Note the contrast of the person who says he knows God, yet "does not keep his commandments" is a liar and without truth, thus, their sins ARE NOT propitiated for.

Others- People may say, but their disobedience will give way to the truth.

## Cross References

[1] My little children [a], I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an [b]advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. [2] He is the [c]propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world [d] [3] And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we [e]keep his commandments. [4] Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments [f]is a liar, and the truth is not in him [5] but whoever [g]keeps his word, in him truly the [h]love of God is perfected. [i]By this we may know that we are in him: [6] whoever says he [j]abides in him [k]ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

**[a]** References to "Children" in [1 John- 2:12, 28; 1 Jn 3:7, 18; 4:4; 5:21](#)

*Little children*, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' John 13:33

*my little children*, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! Galatians 4:19

For you know how, *like a father with his children*, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

*\*The idea of Father's in the faith is not limited to John and speaks to the faith family in the church.*

**[b]** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another *Helper*, to be with you forever, John 14:16

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised —who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is *interceding* for us. Romans 8:34

*\*the tie to the Spirit and his work of "helping/advocating" for us parallels Christs work in our sanctification; sinning less is a fruit of faith in the Gospel (imputed righteousness) The indwelling Spirit backs that work daily ([Romans 8:26-27](#))*

For there is one God, and there is *one mediator between* God and men, the man Christ Jesus. 1 Timothy 2:5

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. Hebrews 7:25

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God *on our behalf*. Hebrews 9:24

**[c]** whom God put forward as a *propitiation* by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. Romans 3:25

All this is from God, who through Christ *reconciled* us to himself and gave us the *ministry of reconciliation*; that is, in Christ God was *reconciling* the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of *reconciliation*. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

and *through him to reconcile to himself all things*, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. Colossians 1:20

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the *propitiation* for our sins. 1 John 4:10

*\*See note vs. 2 under Translations for article on Propitiation*

**[d]** The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, *who takes away the sin of the world!*" John 1:29

They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the *Savior of the world!*" John 4:42

He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but also to *gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad*. John 11:51-52

And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will *draw all people* to myself." John 12:32

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the *Savior of the world*. 1 John 4:14

*\*Invite all that some may be saved!!!*

**[e]** "If you love me, you will *keep my commandments*. John 14:15

If you *keep my commandments*, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. John 15:10

Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, *those who keep the commandments of God* and their faith in Jesus. Revelation 14:12

*True faith results in obedience, BUT, it's not white knuckle Christianity. For those who find Christ, will learn his way of life is the best way to live!! Note, either the text in 1 John or any of the reference verses above are NOT imperatives but indicatives... The person who loves God WILL start living like God's people.*

**[f]** "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, saying, '*Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.*' *And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.*" Matthew 25:41-46

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. *When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.* John 8:44

For there are many who are insubordinate, *empty talkers and deceivers*, especially those of the circumcision party. Titus 1:10

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and *the truth is not in us*. 1 John 1:8

No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; *no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him*. 1 John 3:6

*Anyone who does not love does not know God*, because God is love. 1 John 4:8

1 John is a reminder and says implicitly- Don't be that guy!

[g] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, *'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'* Then the righteous will answer him, saying, *'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'* And the King will answer them, *'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'* Matthew 25:31-40

Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, *he will keep my word*, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. John 14:23

For this is the love of God, *that we keep his commandments*. And his commandments are not burdensome. 1 John 5:3

*A good tree bears good fruit. To be a part of God's kingdom is to live as God's kids.*

**[h]** In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:10

**[i]** Whoever keeps his commandments *abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us*, by the Spirit whom he has given us. 1 John 3:24

By this we know that *we abide in him and he in us*, because he has given us of his Spirit. 1 John 4:13

*By this we know that we love* the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 1 John 5:2

**[j]** *Abide in me, and I in you.* As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it *abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.* I am the vine; you are the branches. *Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.* John 15:4-5

*If you abide in me, and my words abide in you,* ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. John 15:7

[Abide article.](#)

**[k]** Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11:29

*Learning from Jesus and walking in his steps is not the rule following, dot every "I" cross every "t"; tight rope walk people give the impression it is. Jesus set us free from the burden of the law so we could be free to follow him which is where faith, freedom, forgiveness and most importantly, LIFE is found!!!*

*By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 1 John 5:2-4*