

**Message #4****I John 2:1-2**

The big question, when it comes to having a relationship with and fellowship with the God of perfection, is how can we who are sinful have an intimate relationship with the God who is sinless? The answer to this question may be summed up in two proper nouns that identify one and only one person—Jesus Christ!

When one carefully studies the opening verses of I John, one quickly realizes that any fellowship we will ever have with God will be completely determined by our relationship with Jesus Christ.

**THE ONLY PERSON WHO IS IN A POSITION TO BRIDGE A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WE WHO ARE SINNERS AND THE GOD WHO IS HOLY IS JESUS CHRIST.**

This principle is true prior to salvation and true after salvation. When we sin we must face it and deal with it through confession. It is Jesus Christ who is the means for us to gain the cleansing and forgiveness we need.

**KEY THOUGHT #1** – John identifies the target of this writing to his little children. **2:1a**

I John does not present “body” truth to the Church; it presents “family” truth to the Church.”

The Greek word “children” (teknon) is one that refers to a child of either sex who is born or begotten into a family and is being trained by the parents within that family. When John uses this term “little children,” he has in mind those who have been born into the family of God, and are functioning as a family within the church (2:28-29; 3:6, 9; 4:4, 7).

**KEY THOUGHT #2** – John states one purpose of this writing—so that his children might not sin. **2:1b**

The words “these things” may be applicably applied to the entire book; however, they contextually refer to the matters he has just discussed concerning sin in **1:7-10**.

**False Deduction #1** - Since no child of God cannot ever say he does not sin, there is no point in pursuing a life that fights against sin.

**False Deduction #2** - Since forgiveness of sins is easily attained by confession, there is nothing wrong with an attitude that desires to sin a few more times.

John **did not** write the previous verses to permit, encourage, or promote sin. John **did** write to combat sin! Not just habitual, continual sin, he wants to combat every single act of sin.

Notice the emphasis on what is written! The more one carefully studies God's written Word, the less one will be likely to sin.

**KEY THOUGHT #3** – John states when any child does sin, we do have an advocate. **2:1c**

The “if” clause is the clause of probability, not possibility. The term “advocate” refers to a close friend of an accused person who comes alongside of the person to speak up in defense of the character and to plead one's case in a sympathetic way. Notice to whom and with whom this advocacy is needed—God the Father. When we sin we break fellowship with God the Father. We need a very powerful advocate and we have one, none other than Jesus Christ, the Righteous.

**KEY THOUGHT #4** – John states when any child does sin, we have propitiation. **2:2a**

The term “propitiation” is one that refers to being the actual means of legal appeasement by satisfying all the demands of the offended party. In the O.T. economy, the high priest was the advocate and the animal sacrifice was the propitiatory means of appeasing the sin. Now look very carefully at what is stated here—Jesus Christ is not only the High Priest, He is also the sacrifice. In the Greek text, the emphasis on propitiation is on Christ Himself, which means Him and no other! Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ **alone** is the **only** person who can take care of our sin problem.

**KEY THOUGHT #5** – John states that Jesus Christ is the propitiation for the whole world. **2:2b**

This is powerful for unless one is willing to accept that one's sin problem can only be resolved by Jesus Christ, the righteous God/Man, one cannot have a relationship with the Father.

**(Doctrinal Observation #1)** - Salvation and a relationship and fellowship with God is not restricted to one class or group of people; it is open to all through Jesus Christ.

**(Doctrinal Observation #2)** - Salvation is not limited in its atoning scope. The cross-work of Christ has worldwide ramifications for every human because every human is a sinner and out of fellowship with God.

**(Doctrinal Observation #3)** - Jesus Christ is the only means of resolving the sin issue for any and all.

If you want to enter into the deepest relationship you can ever hope to have with God, you must come to terms with your sin and with the fact that Jesus Christ is the only means, the only chance you have of getting rid of your sin.

Tamper with the person and work of Jesus Christ and you do not and will not ever have a relationship with God the Father no matter how religious or philosophical you are.