

Authentic Word—Authentic Life



Some Fatherly Advice

Parental love is one of the strongest bonds on earth. John shares some fatherly insights about living and walking a godly life.

1 John 2:1-6 (NKJV)

:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not 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.

:3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we **keep His commandments**.

:4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

:5 But whoever **keeps His word**, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

:6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also **to walk just as He walked**.

A. A Father's Desire 1 John 2:1

- 1. Little children:** John uses 'little children' to establish his spiritual concern, position, authority and love for his readers.
- 2. His desire:** That they may not sin! He's not saying they will never sin—but the goal is that we develop a character of godliness and do not sin.

B. A Father's Guidance 1 John 2:1-2

- 1. But if we sin:** John recognizes that we will not live a sinless life. Our goal is NOT 'sinlessness' but 'godliness'.
- 2. Help is here:** Here are two things that Jesus does for us:
 - a. He defends us:** 'Advocate' here means a 'defense attorney.' Jesus argues our case before the very throne of God.
 - b. He pays the penalty:** Not only does He defend us but He is our 'propitiation' — He is our 'atoning sacrifice' (NIV) He pays the debt we owe for our sin.

(1) Paid for all: The word 'world' (Gk: cosmos) is used here and in John 3:16. Christ's substitutionary death (atoning sacrifice) was for all who would/will believe.

C. A Father's Encouragement 1 John 2: 3-6

1. Keep His commandments: (:3-4)

- a. Truth:** By keeping (obeying) His commandments builds confidence in God's way.
- b. I know Him:** The Greek phrase means 'day by day experience' with Christ. It is experiencing the finished work of Christ—day by day.
- c. Liar: (:4)** However, if we simply 'say' that we know the Lord or keep His commandments and do NOT keep them—we are being deceptive and the truth is NOT in us.

2. Keep His Word: (:5)

- a. In Him:** Being in Christ or God, and He in us is a major issue to John as well as for us. The phrase refers to intimacy of relationship, an ongoing dynamic, a constancy and closeness of fellowship in the lives of those engaged and committed. It is the human spirit and the Holy Spirit being so mended together that it becomes increasingly difficult to differentiate one from the other.
- b. Perfected love:** John focuses on the importance of love as it is mutually expressed in relationship. The preeminent relationship is ours with God. As one commentator put it, "By our life in Christ and our love of God, we are a manifestation of God's love."

3. Walk in Him (:6)

- a. Do we know we are in Him?** Our study today ends with an acid test of confidence regarding our spiritual security. In order to 'know we are in Him' (:5), we must 'walk as Jesus walked.' (:6)
- b. He must be central:** To 'walk' means that Christ has a central place in our lives, in all we are and do. There is nothing in our lives that we leave untouched by the light and influence of Christ.