



SCRIPTURE: 1 John 2: **walk as Jesus did.**

1 John 1:9

⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

John says, if we make mistakes spiritually, God is there to pick up the pieces. When we as Christians sin, God offers forgiveness.

You see God's grace is not a one time offer, there's no expiration on this deal of a lifetime.

God is faithful. (we can trust Him)

God is just. (He will do what is right)

But that's not a license to sin, let's look at 1 John chapter 2...

1 John 2:1-2

¹My 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. ²He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

John says, "there is forgiveness for us when we fall into sin, but I'm not giving you the authority to do whatever you want. To go on sinning.

The fact that God is willing to forgive isn't a free pass to do whatever we want... it should actually be an incentive to not get into sin. How?

When we see what love God has for us.

When we see what it cost Jesus.

When we see the LOVE that God demonstrated to us through Jesus.

Romans 5:6-8

⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a

righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

When we need him the most... when we are powerless... Jesus sacrifice brings forgiveness. So our response is to love him in return.

So the problem is never in who God is or what He is going to do. The problem is always on us.

We sin. Then we fall into a pattern of sin. Then we question ourselves. Then we decide that God cannot love us this much. Then we walk away.

When all God wants to do is put the pieces back together.

Twice in today's passage here in 1 John chapter 2... John says, "this is how you know..."

How do we know we know?

How do we know we have come to know Him? How do we know we are in Him?

Ever second guess yourself?

I believe some of us as Christians live spiritually weak lives because we question our relationship with God?

We have a hard time believing that God could love us this much. That He would bend down into this world and continually pick up the pieces of our lives.

But today's passage gives us assurance.

It gives us some checkpoints to know where we are and better yet to get our lives back on track.

How do we know?

If we keep His commands.

1 John 2:3-5a

³We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. ⁴Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. ⁵But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them.

The first checkpoint John gives us is to keep His commands. Want to know if have come to know Him? Keep His Commands.

Makes sense doesn't it? John says...

⁴Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.

To live by God's word we must first know God's word.

Psalm 119:11

¹¹I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

And knowing God's word is just the beginning, we have to really study and understand the Bible.

2 Timothy 2:15

¹⁵Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not

need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

Know God's word. Study God's word. Correctly handle God's word.

There are tons of people who study and can recite the Bible, but maybe don't use that information correctly.

Paul says we must not be ashamed, but correctly handle the word of truth!

Then we can live our lives by God's word. John says...

1 John 2:3-5a

³We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands.

The second checkpoint John gives us is rooted in who Jesus is and how he lived.

1 John 2:5b-6

This is how we know we are in him:

⁶Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

I actually like the way the older NIV words this verse...

1 John 2:5b-6 (NIV 1984)

This is how we know we are in him:

⁶Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

If we walk as Jesus walked.

Sometimes we just need the right person to walk with!!

In our spiritual lives we have to make sure that our lives match up to Jesus life. We must live as Jesus lived, or walk as Jesus walked.

Paul said it this way...

Galatians 5:25

²⁵Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

How do we know we are in Him? If we keep in step with the Spirit. If we walk as Jesus did.

Listen, we cannot be in step with the world and think that we are abiding in Christ. We should not be in sync with anyone but God.

Finally, John says we can know we are in Him...

If we love one another.

1 John 2:7-11

⁷Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard.

⁸Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

⁹Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. ¹⁰Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble.

¹¹But anyone who hates a brother or sister

is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

The word love has lost some of its meaning in today's world.

We say we love a Big Mac, but we also say we love our spouses. Can we really use the same word to describe both?

John says, I'm not writing a new command, but I am reemphasizing an old one.

In the OT, the command that God's people love one another was only one of many, but now this old commandment is lifted out and given a place of preeminence.

So John is giving new life, new meaning to an old commandment to love one another.

The Greek language had two different words for "new." One means "new in time," and the other means "new in quality."

For example, you would use the first word to describe the latest car, a recent model. But if you purchased a car that was so revolutionary that it was radically different, you would use the second word—new in quality. (Our English words recent and fresh just about make this distinction: Recent means "new in time," fresh means "new in character.")

The commandment to love one another is not new in time, but it is new in character. Because of Jesus Christ, the old commandment to "love one another" has taken on new meaning. We learn in these five brief verses (1 John 2:7-11) that the commandment is new in three important ways.

New emphasis. John says that to "love one another" is a new commandment. What he is saying is that this old commandment has a new emphasis.

When you love people, you do not lie about them or steal from them. You have no desire to kill them.

Love for God and love for others motivates a person to obey God's commandments without even thinking about them! When a person acts out of Christian love he obeys

God and serves others—not because of fear, but because of his love.

New example. “Love one another,” John pointed out, was first true in Christ, and now it is true in the lives of those who are in Christ. Jesus Himself is the greatest example of this commandment.

We are no longer looking to OT heroes to see what love is, Jesus is the ultimate example. Because of his love we have new life.

New experience. If a Christian walks in the light and is in fellowship with God, he will also be in fellowship with others in God’s family.

Love and light go together, much as hatred and darkness go together.

It is easy to talk about Christian love, but much more difficult to practice it. For one thing, such love is not mere talk (1 John 2:9). For a Christian to say that he loves his brother or sister while he actually hates another believer is for him to lie.

In other words (and this is a sobering truth), it is impossible to be in fellowship with the Father and out of fellowship with another Christian at the same time.

This is one reason why God established the local church, the fellowship of believers. “You can’t be a Christian alone”; a person cannot live a complete and developing Christian life unless he is in fellowship with God’s people.

Ever question where you are with God? Here’s a simple way to know where you stand. Are you living out God’s word in your life? Are you living... walking as Jesus did? Are you loving those around you?

If you are, then you are abiding in Him. If you are not, then your life needs adjustment.

But remember...

1 John 2:1b-2

we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ²He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

SGL Questions:

1. What is one thing on your bucket list that you want to accomplish/ experience?

2. What are some times in your life when feel like you fail spiritually?
3. Read Romans 5:6-8 - what does this passage tell us about how God loves us?
4. What does it mean to “keep His commands”?
5. What does it mean to “walk as Jesus did”? What does it look like?
6. Is there a person that has walked with you on your faith journey? What has that meant in your life?
7. Currently, our culture is saturated with division and hate. How, as believers, do we overcome this and change our culture?
8. Read 1 john 2: 7-11 - discuss this verse. What truths can we apply to our lives?
9. What are you doing to live out Gods love in your life?
10. Read 1 John 2: 1b-2 - what hope does this passage tell us? What does it mean for you?