

1 John 2:1-14

2-3-10

“Walk Just As He Walked!”

I. INTRO:

- A. Congrats to *Tori Kelly* on American idol last night. (*Hope Starr*)
- B. Share on Haiti Trip: Sunday.

II. WALK JUST AS HE WALKED!

- A. **A CALL TO A SINLESS LIFESTYLE!** (1,2)
- B. Springing from vs.10 John gives his **purpose** for writing(1a) “so they wont sin”. Then if you do sin, know God’s plan for your sinfulness!
 - 1. Both ideas must be **maintained**; both thoughts must be **balanced**.
- C. That you may not sin - tense is *aorist* speaking of **acts of sin** not a *habitual lifestyle*.
 - 1. Not shoot for *sinning less or less often*. That you **don’t sin** is the ideal.
 - 2. He quickly knew this ideal wouldn’t be met. **If anyone sins**.
 - a) This reveals that John did believe that **specific acts of sin** are possible in a believers life. (some actually refute that)
- D. His provision in Jesus Christ is **3-fold**:
 - 1. **We have an advocate** - He pleads our defense. **What is the case He pleads?**
 - a) Not **innocence** or even a plea for **mercy**.
 - b) Christ case is built on His **applying** His death to our misdeeds.
 - 2. **Jesus Christ the righteous** -
 - a) *Jesus* (highlights His **humanity** & His **understanding**);
 - b) *Christ* (highlights His **Messianic office**, therefore **His qualification to help**);
 - c) *The righteous* (emphasizes His **ability to approach** God, on our behalf).¹
 - 3. **The propitiation** - *the atoning sacrifice for our sins*.
 - a) It is currently available. He “is” still the propitiation for the whole world.
 - b) His death isn’t **effective** for the whole world; it’s only **available** to the whole world
 - (1) It must be **accepted by faith** to gain its benefit.

¹ Shepherd’s Notes; pg.24

- c) **Propitiation** = to appease an offended person.
- (1) **Sin** arouses the **wrath** of God; if people are to be forgiven, something must be done about his **anger**. Jesus' death on the cross brought about a process of propitiation; it was the means by which divine anger was averted from sinners.
 - (2) John presents Jesus not as the one who offers the appeasement, but as the offering itself.
 - (3) God is just. Anger must be averted. Wrong must be righted. Debt must be paid for.

E. Expiation vs. Propitiation!

1. **Expiation:** The prefix ex, which means "out of" or "from." To remove something. It means to pay the penalty for something, to satisfy some demand
2. **Propitiation:** has to do with what brings about a change in God's attitude toward us, so that we are restored to the fellowship and favor of God.
 - a) It points to God's being appeased. [If I am angry because you have offended me, but you then appease me, the problem will be removed. Thus propitiation brings in the **personal element** and stresses that God is **no longer angry** with us]
3. Propitiation is the **result** of expiation. It is the difference between the ransom that is paid and the attitude of the one receiving the ransom.

F. **A CALL TO OBEDIENCE!** (3-6)

G. (3,4) We can know Him(4) & know that we know Him(3).

1. We can know Him: **intellectually, & experientially, & intimately**(in fellowship with Him).
2. How can we know that we know Him? If we obey His commands.
 - a) The test is **our behavior**. To pass the test & gain assurance of salvation, a person must be **obedient** to God's commands. It's that simple.
 - b) Take the test. Is your lifestyle one of obedience?
 - (1) If you **fail** the test, you should **ask** Christ into your life tonight.
 - (2) If you **pass** the test, you should **accept** the assurance of your salvation & **move forward** in your walk.

H. It doesn't matter if a person **claims** to know God (see "**He who says**"; vs.4,6,9); the test is found in the **lifestyle** of obedience.

- I. **A CALL FOR ACTION!** (6)
- J. (6) Obedience is now illustrated with Jesus' life.
1. An *authentic* Christian is one who **walks as Jesus walked**.
 - a) **Walk**, a *figurative word* for how you **conduct your life**, how you **live**, what you **do!**
 2. **Jesus' initial call was what? "Come follow Me";**
His closing exhortation was? "as the Father sent Me so I send you".
 - a) One test of whether we have responded to His invitation "*come follow Me*", is whether we have heard & responded His command "**to go**".
 3. **Ought/must** - is a business term that means we are "obligated", "in debt" or "bound".
 - a) We must not only follow His commands, but must act like Him.
 - b) There we go, "**just act like Jesus!!!**"
- K. **A CALL TO A LOVING ATTITUDE!** (7-11)
- L. This test is a social test...a test of love!
- M. (7,8) **Wait, so is it new or old?** Yes!
- N. (7) It's **not** a **new** commandment **because** its really **old** from Lev.19:18 (**Love you neighbor**)
- O. (8) It is a **new** commandment **because** the command to love (which Jesus and His followers exhibit) belongs to the **new Age of righteousness** which has begun to dawn.
1. It does not belong to the **old Age** of darkness which was passing away.
Christ's Incarnation brought a light into the world which can never be extinguished
 2. Jesus raises the bar..."**don't just love your neighbor as yourself, love him/her as I love them.**" [**Has God's kind of love been activated in you?**]
- P. When we're in fellowship with God, **walking in the light, we also walk in love!**
1. It's a basic spiritual principle that when Christians are out of fellowship with **God**, they usually can't get along with **God's people**.
- Q. It's **new** in several ways:
1. In its **authority** (Jesus takes the old & puts **His sanction** upon it)
 2. In its **standard** (He presented His **own love as the model** for ours)
 3. In its **emphasis** (love is to be **primary in our behavior**)
 4. In its **extent** (Our love should extend to all our **neighbors/everyone**, & even to our **enemies**)
 5. In its **experience** (As the truth of its newness is seen **in you**)

- R. **The challenge?** Investigate your loving attitude.
1. A person either lives a life of hatred or love.
 2. He lives a lifestyle of love; He isn't stumbling, nor causing others to stumble (lit. "*a stumbling block is not in him*").
 3. **If love is the key that keeps us from causing others to stumble, then love we must!**
- S. He cannot find direction because the darkness has blinded him. Hatred has distorted his perspective; it has stolen his ability to see.
1. **In the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky, the fish in Echo River have eye sockets, but no eyes.**
 - a) Persons of **hate** cannot really see where they are headed. **They are walking straight into eternal moral & spiritual darkness.**
- T. **A FAMILY SPIRITUALLY DEVELOPING!** (12-14)
- U. The address becomes more **personal**, the structure turns **poetic**.
1. **Do you allow God's word to be more than apologetic & systematic?**
 - a) I think there was only a couple of books that really were written that way.
 2. **Is becoming a Christian to you more like baking cookies or falling in love?**
 3. **3 dominate metaphors in Scripture: sheep to shepherd; child to father; bride to bridegroom.** [always relational, not bullet points & formulas]
 4. **Why do we have to chart everything?** We even try to break the Song of Solomon into bullet points. Allow poetry to be beauty, art, & spiritual.
 5. **When Darwin attacked Gen.1 &2 we began to answer science, not by appealing to something greater, but by attempting to translate spiritual realities through scientific equations.²**
 - a) **Jesus is the Word, He is both God & man, the Trinity is both 3 & 1, we are united with Him in His death...**these are mysterious ideas, not *scientific* ideas.
 - b) Poetry goes to "soul level" (**see** Gen.2:23 when Adam saw Eve)
 - (1) Man's only recorded statement before the fall...is poetry!
- V. All of God's children have been **forgiven**, but we ought to **grow** in the Lord.
1. We ought to become **strong** young men & women in the faith; & ultimately spiritual **fathers & mothers**.
 2. **Baby believer? Adolescent? Grown up?...Which are you?**

² Donald Miller; Searching For God Knows What; pg.160.