



May 8th

Passage: I John 2:1-6

Yesterday we mentioned some reasons John was writing this letter. We may need to add that He was writing to a Christian community, a church. He loved them as we'll see today in the opening verse. But the theme is definitely regarding our life in Christ and our life in this world. Simply put, we can't say one thing while doing/acting completely different. Sort of feels and sounds a bit like James.

But think about...the early church has now transitioned to the teenage years. You now the teenage years. Things are changing, you're developed. You're beginning to establish yourself and develop your own theories, beliefs and patterns. That's where the church is at the point John is writing.

So naturally some "bad habits" have crept in. I'd imagine false teaching was all over the place. So John write to warn against some of these things. Namely, habitual sin or the need to have your life match your claim. Again, a hard book to read if we happen to be trying to hold the world's hand while also clinging to God.

## **READ & DIG.** Read I John 2:1-6

Immediately we see 2 big things.....John's love for the people and a reason for writing. He loves them and loves them enough to teach/lead them.

You've got those people right? If not, you need them.

It's the people who are willing to tell you something you may not WANT to hear, but NEED to hear.

That's John for these people. I LOVE YOU enough to tell you that YOU CAN'T KEEP LIVING THIS WAY.

Why is this so important? John lays it out in our text.

To help us follow the thinking we'll point out a few things.

### **GRACE**

It's almost like John, before lowering the boom of "DON'T SIN!" realizes that we are all sinners.

So John quickly is saying look, I know we sin....and if we do...there is help. GRACE HAS BEEN GIVEN.

It's through JESUS. This grace is available for everyone!

**BIG WORD ALERT: Propitiation.** This means Jesus was the replacement or covering for us on the cross.

So don't be like..."oh no! I've sinned!" and then go jump off a cliff. Calm down, grace is here!

I also hope Grace is reading this right now! Sorry, ADD

So before we talk about how sin is not supposed to be in our life know this, where sin is, Grace abounds/wins!

### **EXPECTATION (a natural one). Maybe result of a changed life is better?**

Then John moves on....because grace is here and wins and is available, this doesn't mean we can live any way we want to live. NO! John would say...because you've experienced this grace you fight sin, run from sin.

John is saying that we reveal, make known, testify to the reality of grace by the way we live.

I can't say I love chick fila. I can't even spell it right. But I don't go there every day like you nuts. Ha

I can't say I love it. My actions say something different.

Some of you are like addicted....that's not love either....that's a problem and a different devotion!

If we say we love him, we will obey Him. Very simple

### **ASSURANCE or PEACE**

Ever dealt with an assurance of salvation issue? Like, "I don't know if I'm saved or not!!!!!"

Here's one of many helps we'll see in this letter. He actually says "By this we may know that we are in him:"

HOW? HOW? HOW? "WALK IN THE SAME WAY IN WHICH HE WALKED."

How was that...cool thing is it's what we've been talking about all year....mainly it's this...in love to God and People.

## **Apply & GO**

Sin bad – God is good – your life reveal which one you ultimately follow.

BUT...when you've had a bad day or slipped up...His grace and mercy are ready and able!

Spend some time today evaluating your heart. Do you love God? How does your life show it?

And if you are so humble that you think you're failing...find your hope in Jesus...your advocate!