



1 John 2:1-2 [NLT]

¹ My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. ² He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins – and not only our sins but the sins of the all the world.

Jesus provides a pathway of FREEDOM.

1 John 2:3-11 [NLT]

³ And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. ⁴ If someone claims, 'I know God,' but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. ⁵ But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. ⁶ Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did. ⁷ Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment – to love one another – is the same message you heard before. ⁸ Yet it is also new. Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, and you also are living it. For the darkness is disappearing, and the true light is already shining. ⁹ If anyone claims, "I am living in the light," but hates a fellow believer, that person is still living in darkness. ¹⁰ Anyone who loves a fellow believer is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble. ¹¹ But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness.

John 13:34-35 [NLT]

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Jesus provides a perfect model of LOVE.

1 John 2:12-14 [NLT]

I am writing to you who are God's children because your sins have been forgiven through Jesus. I am writing to you who are mature in the faith because you know Christ, who existed from the beginning. I am writing to you who are young in the faith because you have won your battle with the evil one. I have written to you who are God's children because you know the Father. I have written to you who are mature in the faith because you know Christ, who existed from the beginning. I have written to you who are young in the faith because you are strong. God's word lives in your hearts, and you have won your battle with the evil one.

How to receive forgiveness from God:

- 1) Admit you, like everyone else, need new LIFE in Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- 3) Receive new LIFE from God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to live for you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.

If you chose to follow Jesus today, text "FAITH" to 309-250-2007 to receive additional information about next steps in following Jesus.

For Further Reflection:

:: Reread 1 John 2:1-2.

:: What do we learn about Jesus in this passage?

:: What are the dangers of taking a 'one-and-done' approach to sin?

:: Take time to express gratefulness to God for the gift of forgiveness.

:: Reread 1 John 2:3-11.

:: What stands out to you in this passage of scripture?

:: Pastor Josh mentioned the idea that an old thing, in the hands of a master, can become fresh and new. In your relationship with Jesus, have you found this to be true for you? How so?

:: Pastor Josh suggested John 13:34-35 as "connective tissue" to this passage. Can you think of any other passages that can augment what John is teaching here?

:: What are some tangible ways that we can live out verse six?

:: Reread 1 John 2:12-14.

:: What jumps out to you about this poem?

:: What are the things John is calling us into as children of God?

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New Living Translation [NLT].

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As part of our journey through the book of 1 John, we invite you to engage in a 25-day bible reading plan that leads you through all of John's writings. Go to www.bible.com or your YouVersion Bible App and search for "Writings of John". Invite a few friends from your circle and let's continue learning together!



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