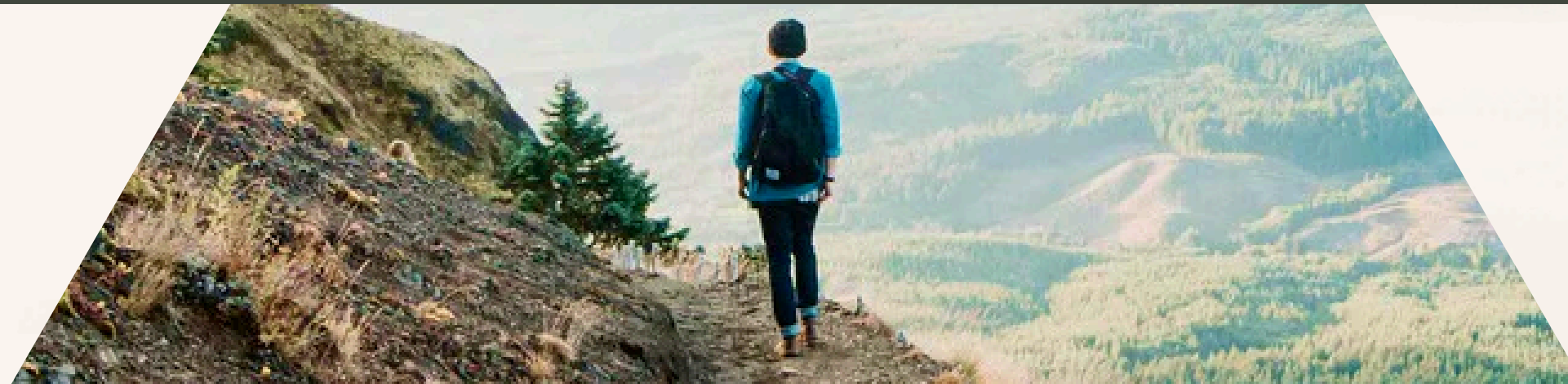


# The Evidence of True Relationship Is Action

1 John 2:1-6

# WALK THIS WAY

*How to Live a Life of Christ-like Integrity*





**SO NOW WHAT?**

# Christians should reject sin in every way (v.1)

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- *“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves”* -1 John 1:8a
  - We ALL sin.
- Just because we do sin, that doesn't mean we just enjoy it or seek it out.
  - **As followers of Jesus, we should see sin as a big deal...it should be a MAJOR concern to us.**
- God's desire for us is to not sin.
  - Why? Because sin leads to death and destruction.

*“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.”*

**1 JOHN 2:1A**

## Jesus is our advocate and atoning sacrifice for our sins (v.1-2)

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- Even when we do sin, we have an advocate - Jesus Christ.
  - Jesus is perfect in every way; He is righteous.
- Jesus alone is the propitiation of our sins.
  - Propitiation - appease, settle a dispute
  - The wrath of God directed toward us, because of sin, has been poured out on Jesus.

*"But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup> He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."*

**1 JOHN 2:1B-2**



## Jesus is our advocate and atoning sacrifice for our sins (v.1-2)

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- Even now, Jesus still continues to provide grace and righteousness, because He is the one who is appeasing.
  - He is our advocate.
- Remember...it was GOD's plan and will to send Jesus to pay the price of sin to save us, because He loves us (John 6:38).
- When we sin, Jesus represents us before the Father. His role as advocate shows us His ongoing ministry on our behalf.

*"But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup> He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."*

**1 JOHN 2:1B-2**

## True knowledge of God is demonstrated by obedience (v. 3-4)

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- John is NOT saying that obedience earns a relationship with God.
  - Salvation is not based on works or legalism – it's by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone (Eph. 2:8–9).
- **Obedience doesn't secure our salvation; it flows from it.**
  - Our motivation to follow God's word should be love, not merit
- "Know" here speaks of deep, personal, relational knowledge – not just head knowledge.

*And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. <sup>4</sup> Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him"*

**1 JOHN 2:3-4**



**Knowing about Jesus isn't enough; saving faith is personal, transformative, and then demonstrated through obedience.**

**True knowledge of God leads to a life of joyful obedience.**

## Love and obedience are marks of maturity (v.5)

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- This means that you'll be full, mature, having all that you truly need.
  - Growing in our relationship with God leads to living a FULL life. A life that understands our identity and purpose.
- **Many people want *Savior* Jesus, but don't want *Lord* Jesus.**
- A perfected love for God will show itself in obedience, and the presence of this obedience and love gives us assurance that we are in Jesus.

*"but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him"*

**1 JOHN 2:5**

## **A Christian should...**

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- No longer love sin as they once did
- No longer brag about their sin as they once did
- No longer seek out and plan to sin as they once did
- No longer look back longingly over the sin they once committed
- No longer fully enjoy sin as they once did
- No longer be comfortable in habitual sin as they once were

**Christians should not long for and love sin.**

God's love is perfected (made complete) in those who obey Him—this shows spiritual growth and authenticity.

## Following Jesus means walking as He did (v.6)

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- If you are in a relationship with Jesus, then it should show by how you live.
- Claiming to live in Him means living a life that mirrors His—marked by love, humility, and obedience.
- The Christian life isn't just about claiming a title—it's about walking in the footsteps of our Master
  - Are you just wearing the badge, or are you walking in His steps?

*“whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”*

**1 JOHN 2:6**

# Personal Assessment

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1. Do my daily choices reflect the values of Jesus, or just the label “Christian”?
2. When people observe how I treat others—friends, family, strangers—do they see Jesus in me?
3. Do I read Jesus’ words to learn how to live, or just to check off a spiritual box?
4. When it’s inconvenient or uncomfortable, do I still walk like Jesus—or do I switch back to what’s easier?
5. Do I spend time with Jesus enough to even know how He walked?
6. Am I more concerned with how I appear to others, or how closely I’m walking with Christ?
7. Am I focused on myself and what I want? Or on others?

**If you claim to abide in Jesus Christ, then your response should be to walk as He walked - with love, willingness, and surrender.**

**Not out of obligation, but out of heartfelt love and devotion.**

# Application

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1. Don't make peace with sin—run to your Advocate.
2. Let your obedience prove that your profession isn't just words.
3. Check your walk: does your life reflect Jesus?
4. Grow in love through obedience.
5. Pursue consistency and confession, not perfection.

# How can you help the next generation walk like Christ?

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1. If you've never placed your faith in Jesus, make today the day you do!
2. If you have, commit to living like Jesus - modeling spiritual maturity for our students to see, follow, and strive toward.
  - a. Give them Christ-like examples worth imitating.
  - b. Instead of spending so much time criticizing today's youth, we should spend more time becoming the kind of people they need to see.

**Our two options are to write off the next generation or, in love, help them.**

**Which will you choose?**

*“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”* -1 Cor. 11:1

# Call to Action

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1. Let today's youth know their **presence matters**.
  - a. Encourage them!
  - b. Remind them: *"You belong here. You matter. You're a part of our church."*
2. Don't just cheer students on from a distance—**engage**.
  - a. Ask them how you can pray for them.
  - b. Actually pray for them.
  - c. Follow up—show them they're not forgotten.
3. Register to **attend our Youth Auction** next week!
  - a. Donate appetizers, desserts and gift cards/certificates



# YOUTH AUCTION

*APPETIZERS, DESSERTS, GIFT CARDS, AND MORE!*

Saturday, May 10 at 5:30 pm



- △ Helping provide scholarships for teens to attend camp
- △ Scan to register to attend or to donate items

## So now what?

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- If you truly know Jesus, your life should show it.
  - If you say you follow Him, walk like He did.
  - Obey His commands. Love like He loved. Live like you've been changed.

**The evidence of true relationship with Jesus, is action.**

- Don't just claim the name of Jesus—walk in His ways.