

Message.

We live in a chaotic world that promotes a "trending" Christianity, often confusing a "spotlight" with the true "Light," but 1 John 2 clarifies that Jesus came to make us faithful, not famous. Culture wants to redefine sin. John stressed that sin is real, but grace is greater. This grace, given through Jesus our Advocate, is not permission to stay in sin; it is the power to walk out of it. You cannot truly rejoice in salvation while denying the reality of sin. This understanding leads to the next step: clarity deepens when obedience defines our love. This stands against the modern error of equating love with affirmation. True obedience isn't legalism to earn salvation but the evidence of it, proving that love and obedience are inseparable. Ultimately, this means walking in the light requires living with clarity and courage in a culture of compromise. Biblical love doesn't evolve to fit culture; it endures to reflect Christ, giving us the courage to practice repentance over denial and prioritize holiness over hype.

Prayer.

Heavenly Father,
Draw me close to You through Your Word. Make Your love evident to me. I desire to be obedient to Your commands to produce fruit that brings You glory.
Amen.

Scripture.

1 John 2:1-11

Engage.

Verses 1-2 – John opens by saying, "I am writing this so that you will not sin." But he immediately follows with, "But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate..." Why is it so important for him to hold these two truths—the call to holiness and the provision for failure—together? What's the difference between having an "Advocate" for our sin and having "permission" to sin?

Verses 3-5 – John uses very strong language, saying that whoever claims to know God but doesn't keep his commands "is a liar". Why do you think he makes this connection so blunt? How does this passage challenge the common idea that a person can "love Jesus" but not be concerned with obeying his teachings?

Verse 6 – What does it practically mean to "walk as Jesus did"? If your group were to pick one specific aspect of Jesus's "walk" (e.g., his prayer life, his compassion, his service, his obedience to the Father), what would it look like to practice that this week?

Verses 9-11 – After talking about light and darkness, John gives a very specific, practical test in verses 9-11. What is the real evidence that someone is "in the light"? Why do you think he focuses on loving (or hating) a brother or sister as the primary proof?

Verses 10-11 – Whoever hates a brother "is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him." In what ways can bitterness, unforgiveness, or contempt for others "blind" a person (or a church) today?

Verses 1-11 – How does the command to love our brother (v. 9-11) relate to the command to obey His commands (v. 3-6)? How does the grace we receive from our "Advocate" (v. 1-2) empower us to do both?

For these cities. For all people.