



1 John

Lavish Love

Do you know if you know Him?

1 John 2:1-6

Message #3 of 10 – S707

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Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

Do you know if you know Him?

1 John 2:1-6

Opening Comments

- Turn to **1 John 2**
- Today, we continue our series **Lavish Love**
- It is more than a trite saying to say, “God loves you!”
- It is the basis for this thing we call Christianity
- God chooses to love us, even when we are unlovable **Romans 5:8**
God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- God doesn’t wait until we get our lives all together before he starts loving us
- In the last message we discussed that God saved us, not just so that we would go to heaven, but that we might walk with Him in an intimate fellowship relationship
- Almighty, holy, eternal, Creator God wants to be our friend
- Read this week that Selena Gomez has over 100 million followers on Instagram
- How many of those 100 million can she have real fellowship friendship with – not many
- God is capable of being in an intimate fellowship relationship with every living soul on earth
- God offered that relationship to the world when He sent His Son
John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- To enjoy the fullness of the joy that relationship promises we must choose to walk with God
- That means striving to live like Jesus in this world
- And last week we saw that we don’t always do that, sometimes we blow it, sometimes we do what we want to do, sometimes we choose to do things we know are wrong
- God calls that sin – and sin is a problem because it fractures our relationship with God

- But thankfully God doesn't un-friend us when we sin
- In fact, He made a way through Jesus that we can be cleansed of our sin and have our relationship restored **1 John 1:9**

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- And just for clarification from last week's message – I didn't say that drinking Monster Energy Drinks was sinful
- In today's message John is going to let us know how we can know that we know Jesus
- If you are able and willing to do so, please stand as we read today's text as a sign of reverence for God's Word
- Read **1 John 2:1-6**
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Do you know if you know Him?**
- John begins with a couple of very powerful verses
- **1 John 2:1a**
- In 1 John 1:4 John said that He wrote that their joy might be full
- And here he says he writes so that they 'may not sin'
- Don't miss the connection there – there is a direct correlation between a lack of joy and sin in our lives
- That doesn't necessarily mean some outward sin
- More commonly I find people are weak in joy because they have weak or faulty faith – they don't believe or trust God as they should and it is robbing them of their joy
- It would be John's hope that they would not sin, but he is also a realist
- The second half of verse 1 should encourage any Christian who has ever sinned after they got saved
- **1 John 2:1b**
- 'we have an Advocate' – advocate = counselor – defense attorney

Romans 8:33-34

Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

- If we sin, Jesus stands before Holy God and defends us

- But unlike a human courtroom, the case isn't decided based on our merit, but on His righteous life and perfect sacrifice
- John explains in the next verse why that is true
- **1 John 2:2**
- This verse is one of the most important verses in the Bible
- And if you don't understand what John is saying here, you will not be able to understand the rest of the Bible
- Jesus is the propitiation for our sins
- 'propitiation' is a theological term = atoning sacrifice, substitutionary sacrifice
- All sin, any sin is absolutely repugnant to God
- It is a violation and corruption of His holiness
- And because God is perfectly holy, He must punish all sin
- And the punishment that sin deserves is death **Romans 3:23**

The wages of sin is death.

- But if God punished all sinners when they sin, none of them would survive to be adults and repopulate the earth
- So all the way back in the early pages of Genesis God allowed for a substitute to take the place of the sinner
- The substitute was to be an innocent creature dying in the place of the guilty sinner
- The shed blood of the innocent creature covered over, or atoned for their sin
- Up until Jesus came, that was done with bulls, goats, and sheep
- When Jesus went to the cross, God the Father did something horrific to His Son **2 Corinthians 5:21**

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- God the Father put all the sins of the whole world on Jesus, and then punished His perfectly innocent Son
- Jesus died in our place – He died so that we wouldn't have to – He suffered and bled so that we could be cleansed by His blood
- So now, if we sin, we don't stand before God and defend ourselves
- Jesus, our Advocate, stands before God and reminds Him that He died for that sin

- Want you to notice at the beginning of the verse, ‘He Himself’
- That is in the emphatic = He and Him alone
- No one or nothing else can take away your sin – only Jesus
- John says that Jesus is the propitiation for ‘our sins’ – talking to believers – but then continues, not our only but also for the whole world = unbelievers
- There is a false doctrine that uses this verse to say that everyone in the world will be saved – Universalism
- Not saying everyone will be saved, but that everyone could be saved by the shed blood of Jesus
- This is why we do missions and evangelism – God loves the whole world, and Jesus propitiation is capable of taking away the sins of every living person
- And the only thing required for that to happen is that they repent and believe **Mark 1:14-15**

Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

- The whole Bible hinges on two main thoughts – sin separates mankind from the God who loves them – Jesus’ shed blood can reconcile them back to God
- There is great joy when we realize our sins have been forgiven **Psalm 32:1**

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

- As awesome as having our sins forgiven is, that is not the fullness of joy that we talked about in the first message
- God doesn’t just want to save us, in chapter one we learned that God wants to fellowship with us – deep sharing of things in common via association and participation
- We experience that fellowship, according to chapter one by walking in the light, in God’s holiness – how do we do that?
- **1 John 2:3-6**
- Four times in four verses John uses the word know
- John is saying there are three things that we can know
- First – **We can Know Jesus**

- The word know means to know experientially, not just theory or head knowledge – Jesus can be known as a friend
- The Bible is God’s revelation of Himself and His Son, and His Spirit
- Second – **You can Know that You Know Jesus**
- This speaks of confidence and assurance of salvation
- The Bible says it so simply sometimes, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved’ – Commentator said

Trying to live the Christian life while lacking the assurance that you are truly a Christian is like driving a car with the brake on.

- Third – **You can know that obedience to God’s Word is evidence that we know Jesus**
- ‘if we keep His commandments’
- If you are anything like me, you know that you don’t always ‘keep His commandments’
- You may not be breaking one of the Big Ten, but you know you are not living a perfect life
- So how do we know that we know Jesus if we are not living a perfect life
- John has already addressed the reality that we are not perfect – that is why Jesus had to give His perfect life for ours
- To keep here means ‘an ongoing and growing desire to obey God’
- John even goes so far as to say that if you do not have a desire to obey God, and you say you know Jesus that you are a liar – PC integrity challenged or truth deficit syndrome – liar
- If you keep His word, V5, the love of God is perfected in you **John 14:15**

If you love Me, keep My commandments.

- There is a direct correlation between loving Jesus and obeying God’s Word – can’t do one without the other
- Our problem is that we are not perfect, so even our obedience is imperfect
- God did something radical in us when we got saved **Romans 5:5**
Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
- But we don’t know how to express that love perfectly, even as we strive to keep God’s Word

- And so John says in verse six that we should walk just as Jesus walked
- You might say, that's easy for you to say John, you actually walked with Jesus, how do we do it, nearly 2,000 years after Jesus left?
- Let me give you an analogy – imagine a set of golf clubs
- To the person not well acquainted with the game, it doesn't make sense why there are so many
- Driver, woods, irons, hybrids, wedges, and a putter
- Each club serves a different purpose, and in every situation, there is usually one club that is best
- Learning which club to use, when to use, how to use it, takes time and practice
- The guys on the PGA make it look easy, but they have thousands of hours of practice and real-life experience
- Your Bible is like that set of clubs – there is a Scripture that applies to every circumstance and situation in life
- Obeying God's Word is like using the right golf club at the right time, in the way it was intended to be used
- God's love is in you and it is perfected as you walk in faith in obedience to God's Word
- God wants you to do your very best – don't freak out if you don't do it right
- If you blow it, go back to 1 John 1:9 and confess and let the blood of Jesus erase your mistake, then try again
- As you do that, you will grow in your knowledge of God, and your fellowship with Him will be more radical, and your joy will be more full
- Amen!
- We're going to partake of Communion this morning
- The ushers can go ahead and start getting ready for that
- We talked this morning about Jesus being the propitiation for our sins
- It is because Jesus died in our place that we can be in fellowship with God and with each other
- We call what we are about to do 'Communion'

- That word means: the act of sharing, or holding in common; association or fellowship
- This has deep spiritual meaning to believers – it is a holy thing to us
- This is a time for us to pause and reflect upon the eternal significance of what Jesus did for us individually
- If you are here and you are honest enough to admit to yourself that you don't believe this stuff, and you have no desire to obey God, than this has no meaning for you
- I would ask that you be respectful of how seriously we take this, and you allow the cracker and juice to pass you by
- This is a time for Christians to remember that Jesus died in our place and that His blood cleanses us of sin
- If you are here and you want to be forgiven of your sin and enjoy the fellowship and love of God, you can do that right there in your seat
- Simply confess to God that you are a sinner, and ask Him to forgive you
- If you do that, then you join us today in Communion
- Communion is not for perfect Christians, it is for forgiven sinners
- If there is unconfessed sin in your life, after the elements have been passed, you take some time and confess your sins to God
- And if you are here today, and call yourself a Christian, but are walking in darkness, meaning you have chosen to live a life you know is contrary to God and His Word
- Then this is not for you – Communion is for those people who have a desire to please and obey God, even if they do it imperfectly
- If you call yourself a Christian and are walking in darkness the apostle Paul warns you not to partake **1 Corinthians 11:27-29**
Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.
- Paul says all of us should examine ourselves
- But once we have done that, and confessed and repented of any known sin, this is a time for rejoicing in what Jesus did so that we could have fellowship with God and with each other

- The ushers can now come forward and distribute the elements
- Please hold on to the elements so that we can eat and drink them together
- David is going to play quietly while the elements are passed
- Take some time and reflect upon the wonder of what Jesus did for you
- **WAIT FOR ELEMENTS TO BE PASSED**
- Pray over cracker, then the cup
- God bless you all – have a radical week