

Part 2 study of 1 John 2:1-17

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today at the PUNLA Coffee Table. So, get comfortable, get your coffee or tea or water and settle in for our talk.

I hope everyone is doing well.

Today we are continuing our study of 1st John. 1st part of 1 John 2: verses 1-17 can be summarized by the word Obedience. In the simplest terms, obedience means to comply with or be in compliance with an order, request or law. To submit to another's authority. We teach our children to be obedient to us as parents. To be a Christian we must be a follower of Jesus Christ. That's what Christian means. If you follow someone, you must submit to that person's authority. Just like we must submit to Jesus if we are to be a Christian. Then God's light can be seen in us and be a light to the dark world around us. But it starts with us and our obedience to Jesus.

Remember before we start reading the bible we need to understand who wrote it, when they wrote it, what is the historical basis (what was going on at the time), who it was written to and why. The author is the Apostle John. Most scholars believe it was written in AD85-90. The main themes in 1st John are,

- True Teaching, True Living and True Love
- Encourage Christian who are being persecuted (who/why it was written to and what was happening in History). Christians were being persecuted by the Romans, by the Jews and pretty much very other group.
- We can Trust "who Jesus is"
- Jesus is both man & God - ignore false teachers who deny
- Correct the wrong ideas about Jesus
- Correct idea about what is good and evil which lead to the lack of morality in the church

What about you shows that you have a commitment to Christ? How often we attend church? How much money we give? How much we know about the Bible? Special doctrines or beliefs we follow?

John reminds us that Christians will have an ever-deepening fellowship with God if they live lives marked by obedience, love, and holiness. We are going to study 1st John 2:1-17 today

Let's Read 1 John 2:1-2. I'm reading from the NKJV. *¹My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.*

I know it seems a little strange that John calls the reader "*my little children*" but remember John is pretty old when he writes this. This is meant to convey how much John cares for the reader.

John says that Jesus is the propitiation for our sins. The word propitiation means action of appeasing God or another term we hear a lot is atonement. Jesus was the sacrifice that appeased God for our sins.

Let's Read 1 John 2:3-5 *³Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.*

Since nobody obeys God perfectly (compare 1 John 1:8 and 2:4), how can we be sure our faith is genuine?

- 1 John 1:8 - *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*
- 1 John 2:4 – *He who says, "I know Him", and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

John is not making it impossible. What he means is we must accept that we fall short and repent of our sins and transgressions so we can Know God. But we need to actively strive to follow the commandments of God. And when we fail, we ask forgiveness and try again. The key here is we must be trying to follow. We can't say to ourselves, I know this is wrong but I'll ask forgiveness later. If you do that you are deceiving yourself. Honest, truthful effort to be obedient.

Let's Read 1 John 2:6-7 *⁶He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. ⁷Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning*

What does it mean (in modern, practical terms) to *"walk just as He walked."* (v.6) other translation say *"live as Jesus lived"* Jesus is our example. John is telling us, our target is to live, speak, do as Jesus did. How did Jesus treat people? How did Jesus handle interruptions? How did Jesus...? You can put your own end on that statement. A simple motto is What would Jesus do. We should be continually trying to become more and more like Christ. This is how we can live life here on earth like we belong to the Kingdom of God right now. Live like you know who is really in charge. We only need to please one person, Jesus. If we are pleasing Him who cares what the world thinks of us.

Let's Read 1 John 2:8-11 *⁸Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. ⁹He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. ¹⁰He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. ¹¹But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*

Example: You have a friend whose father treated them cruelly all their life. Even though they profess to be a Christian, they have a deep hatred for their father. How can 1 John 2:9-11 help them? Now this is a tough one. We all have people in our life or in our past that are hard to love. But love is not an emotion, it's a choice. John is reminding us of what Jesus taught us. That we must love our neighbor as ourselves. Love them despite what they do or say. Now this does not mean you have to forget what they've done. That's impossible in some cases. And you do not have to put yourself in a position to be taken advantage or hurt by that person again. But you need to love them. You need to forgive them. You need to treat them fairly and kindly even if they treat you horrible. Even though they don't deserve it. You love them just as Jesus loves you even though you don't deserve it. This is how we shine Jesus' light into the darkness of this world. Chose to Love.

Let's Read 1 John 2:12-14 *¹²I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. ¹³I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father. ¹⁴I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning.*

I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.

Which of the promises in verses 12-14 are most encouraging to you personally, and why?

I encourage you to read these verses again. Your sins are forgiven (v.12). You know Him, God (v.13 & v.14). You have overcome the wicked one (v.13 & v.14). You are strong (V.14). The word abides in you (v.14).

What amazing promises. I don't even know where to start. Each are so precious to me. I'm going to concentrate on two for today.

You know God. How amazing is it that we can actually know the maker of the universe? The creator cares for me and wants a relationship with me. Imperfect, messed up me. I wouldn't want a relationship with me if I was God. Wow.

And then You are Strong. I don't know about you but I don't feel strong most of the time. But, it's not our strength but the strength of God with in us which helps us to overcome our troubles and trials. His strength in us helps us overcome the temptations of this world. We can't do it on our own but with God all things are possible if we only have faith. And when we don't have enough faith, we can call out to God. I believe but help me overcome my unbelief. (this quote is from Mark 9:24)

Let's Read 1 John 2:15 *¹⁵Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

Are you guilty of loving certain *"things in the world"* (v.15)? What? You need to search yourselves. What are things you love in this world more than Jesus. It might be your family. If you have kids, it might be your children. Maybe it's the comforts of the world. Your home or your stuff. Maybe its music or parties. Or maybe it's alcohol or drugs or immoral living. Are any of these things more valuable than Jesus? Are they worth throwing away your salvation? Of course not, but we all have things that we put first on our list. We give more importance to, instead of Jesus. But why.? Are any of these things more valuable than Heaven.? Than your relationship with the Creator God. Than Jesus. You have to answer that. For me I made my choice Jesus. But I have to be honest I have to continue to make that choice day after day. It's not a onetime thing, it's a way of life every day in everything. It is work and there are lots of great things you have to put in their place. 2nd place or lower.

Let's Read 1 John 2:16-17 *¹⁶For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

If obedience suggests we know God, does disobedience mean we don't have a relationship with God?

This is a hard question because we are all disobedient for time to time. I think it comes down to intent and direction. If we are striving to be more like Jesus and we are moving toward him. But we fail, we sin, we hurt someone. Even though we fail as long as we stay in fellowship with God and continue to work to grow in our relationship we will do better.

What are some specific ways God's light has grown brighter in your life in recent months?

I want you to think about this for a while. For me this is easy. I just had COVID and my near death experience is what lead me to start this ministry. I learned it's not about me but it's about God and what God wants from me. It's about the people God loves, you.

Here is a list of other Bible passages about obedience:

- Exodus 19:5;
- Deuteronomy 4:30; 5:29; 7:12; 28:1;
- John 14:21,31; 15:10;
- Romans 5:19;
- James 1:25

I encourage you to read them and meditate on how we can be obedient as the world tries to make us stumble and fail.

If you are Journaling This week, consider this question.

In what ways is "darkness" a good metaphor for a life of disobedience?

Let's Pray. Father God. Thank you for this time together. Help us to apply these lessons in our life.

Obedience is not easy for us. Help us to resist the world and its ideas so we can live as you would want us to. Help us to see that life in the Kingdom is better and more fulfilling than anything else. Help us to concentrate on what we receive when we are obedient. Which is hope, love, assurance and peace. The evil one wants to deceive us about what we are missing but Lord help us to see it's just a lie.

God, I am so thankful for everyone listening. Please use this study to open hearts to you Lord.

I want to pray for all those listening. You know them and their struggles Lord. Help them Jesus to surrender to you. And accept the peace and assurances which can only come through true fellowship with you, Lord Jesus. I pray this in your name, Jesus Amen

Next week we will continue with Part 3 of 1st John 2:18-27 Enemies of Christ.

Thank you for joining me at the PUNLA Coffee Table. If you liked the message, please select like. And Please Subscribe to our channel. Leave comments here, or our website or mail me at kip@punla.org. I appreciate your feedback.

See you next time at the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.