

# 1 JOHN Real Christianity

Exposing Error - Strengthening Christians

1:5-2:6 - Genuine Christians  
take sin seriously

- We live in a world where sin is minimised
- The temptation is for the church/Christian to follow the world
- John forcefully calls those who claim to be Christians to live as Christians
- 2 reasons *why* & 3 ways *how* to take sin seriously

## 1. **Because God is Holy – 1:5**

- A person's character is determined by the God they worship
- God is blazingly pure – 1:5 – there is no mixture
- Light reveals flaws – we stand before a sin revealing God.
- We need to remind ourselves of this fact so that we will take sin seriously
- Our *aim* is to be like him – 1:7. Are you aiming for perfection?

## 2. **Because Salvation is at stake – 1:6,8,10**

- Your walk must match your talk - “If we claim... yet walk...”
- Self deceit is a real possibility – “we lie...” v8,10, 2:4
- We can't redefine sin – that is to call God a liar – 1:10
- No salvation for the habitually disobedient professing Christian – 1:6
- God doesn't save us to have us trample his Son's name in the dirt
- God is transforming those he has truly saved – no holiness, no Heaven

## 3. **By Fighting sin, not walking in it**

- John doesn't teach perfectionism, he knows Christians will fall
- Question is not “Do you sin?”, but “What do you do when you sin?”
  - a) Watch where you walk, “Walk in the light” – 1:7
  - b) Watch how you walk, “Walk as Jesus did” – 2:6
  - c) Examine your walk, “If we confess our sins...” – 1:9

## 4. **By Fleeing to Christ for Forgiveness**

- “Blood of Christ cleanses... will forgive us... we have an advocate, an atoning sacrifice”
- Christ is all that you need
  - a) He is your Advocate – someone to plead for you
  - b) He is your Righteousness – This is what he pleads
  - c) He is your Sacrifice – someone to pay for your sin

## 5. **By Focusing on Christ for Motivation**

- Every failure to live the Christian life is a failure to understand the Gospel
- v3 – “The man who says ‘I know him’...” - Motivation for obedience isn't fear, but relationship
- We live the way we live to honour the one who gave up all for us
- Our obedience is an expression of love for Jesus – 2:5



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S E R V I N G J E S U S C H R I S T T H E K I N G

www.newlifefellowship.ie - part of the reformed presbyterian church of ireland

Sabbath 30th March 08

### Notices

- |             |  |     |
|-------------|--|-----|
| Sab         | Evening service at Day Centre, Letterkenny   | 8pm |
| Tues        | Study 19 in I Corinthians @ _____  | 8pm |
| 4-6th April | Western & Southern Presbytery youth weekend<br>Rev Andrew Kerr speaking on Heaven<br>Application forms available - need to be in by 29th March |     |

### Denomination News

#### **Robert Robb - Marathon Man!**

Rev Robert Robb, minister in Limavady RP Church is planning to run 6 marathons on 6 consecutive days in the 6 counties of Northern Ireland in May. He is doing it to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society and Macmillan Cancer Support. Sponsorship forms are available.

#### **Warren & Ruth Peel's book on Relationships**

Rev Warren Peel and his wife Ruth's new book on relationships is available at €5. This is an expansion of their articles in the Messenger magazine.

Next Sabbath: I John 2:6-27

Opening Psalm: 73:7-11

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