

Christ is Our Everything

1 John 2:1-14

I. Christ is Our Advocate (1 John 2:1) Jesus intercedes on behalf of believers with God the Father, acting as a defense attorney who argues their case and secures forgiveness for sins through his sacrifice. This advocacy provides assurance and a basis for repentance, assuring believers of God's provision for their sin and encouraging them to towards repentance. rather The Greek word for "advocate" (parakletos) means "one called to one's side" to help, like an intercessor or defense attorney in a courtroom.

II. Christ is Our Atonement (1 John 2:2) The term "propitiation" means Christ's death served as an atoning sacrifice that satisfies God's wrath against sin. In this verse, "propitiation" (or "atoning sacrifice") signifies that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross fully paid the penalty for sin, appeasing God's requirement of a sacrifice. This concept finds its roots in the Old Testament sacrificial system, where animals were offered to atone for sins.

III. Christ Gives Us Assurance (1 John 2:3-6) An assurance of a true relationship with Christ is found in a life of obedience to His commands and walking as He walked. Keeping God's word demonstrates His love is perfected in you, and this practical demonstration of faith, rather than just words, provides the assurance that you genuinely know Him and are as John 15 states, abiding in Him.

The primary test for knowing God is not just professing to know Him, but demonstrating that knowledge through obedience to His commandments. Someone who claims to know God but does not obey His commands is considered a liar, and the truth is not in them. When you keep God's word, it shows that God's love is maturing or growing in you. If you claim to "abide" or remain in Him, your life should reflect the manner in which Jesus lived—that is, in obedience and righteous living. True assurance is not based on mere words but on a transformed life that consistently follows Christ's example and teachings.

Your consistent actions of obedience are a sign that you have a genuine relationship with God, not just a superficial claim. This is a process of growth where the saving work of Christ and His indwelling Spirit anchors you more deeply to Him, solidifying your assurance. This assurance fosters a sense of gratitude and joy, motivating a deeper, more intimate walk with God.

- a. The affirmation of knowing Christ. (vv.3-4)
- b. An adoration by a perfected love in Christ. (v. 5)
- c. An assurance by abiding in Christ. (v. 6)

IV. Christ Gives Us the Ability to Love (1 John 2:7-11) The commandment John was talking about is the command to love one another, which is both an old and a new commandment. It's "old" because it was heard from the beginning and is rooted in the Old Testament Law (Leviticus 19:18). It's "new" because it is fulfilled and exemplified in Jesus's own life and love, and it is the defining mark of His disciples. John states that the commandment to love is not a new one but an old one that has been heard from the beginning. This refers to the long-standing command in the Old Testament to love one's neighbor. However, John emphasizes that it is also a new commandment because of Jesus's new commandment to His followers in John 13:34-35: "Love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another". The "newness" lies in the example and depth of love demonstrated by Jesus, who is the "true light". His life and sacrifice provide a new way to understand and live out love. Loving other believers is presented as a test of true faith. John contrasts those who walk in the light (love) with those who walk in darkness (hate). By the love shown among believers, all people will recognize that they are Jesus's disciples. Conversely, hating a brother or sister is a sign of walking in darkness and being in Satan's kingdom, not in Christ's.

V. Christ Grants Us Abundant Growth (1 John 2:12-14) Verses 12-14 addresses believers in three stages of spiritual growth: "little children", who have their sins forgiven; "young men", who are strong because the Word of God abides in them and they have overcome the evil one; and "fathers", who know Him who is from the beginning. The passage encourages all believers by affirming their spiritual blessings and calling them to grow in their relationship with God and His Word

- a. We are forgiven in Christ. (v.12)
- b. We know the Father through Christ. (vv.13-14)
- c. We are victorious through our faith in Christ. (vv. 13-14)