Do Not Sin . . . But If You Do . . .

Jesus' life, death, and resurrection accomplished all that was necessary that we could be forgiven for our sin. And even more than that because of Jesus, believers are set free from sin so that with the help of the indwelling Spirit we might put away our sin and live as God's children showing the family resemblance. We CAN put away our sin, and yet . . . we do still sin. What then? How are we to think about our standing with God? Is He angry at us? Do we need to earn our way back into His good graces? In today's passage, John gives us a foundational perspective on sin that helps us navigate such questions.

Read 1 John 2:1-2

1. What's the context? What has John been talking about in the previous verses?

2. Why do you think John addresses his readers as "little children"?

3. What does John say is his reason for writing?

4. What is an advocate? What does it mean that Jesus is this for us?

Steve said:

The term propitiation means that *the wrath of God that we deserved was satisfied by Jesus' death on the cross*. Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah 53:6 which says that "the Lord has laid on him [the suffering servant] the iniquity of us all." The brutality of the cross reflects the sinfulness of sin and expresses the wrath of God that we deserve for our sins. This isn't "divine child abuse" (as it's sometime slanderously charged). No, the Father sent the Son and the Son willingly laid down his life for us. The love of the Father and the Son led to our propitiation.

5. Do you truly believe that God is satisfied concerning your sin . . . that there is no longer any hint of wrath towards you?

6. When you sin, how might knowing that Jesus is the propitiation for your sin help you continue to seek God and to walk with Him?

7. How can you practically apply this passage to your life?

Practicing the Rhythms of Rooted this Week



Daily Devotion: Read 1 John once a week. As you do, ask yourself the question, "How does this teaching help me put away sin in my life?"



Freedom from Strongholds: In light of the truths from this passage, take time to draw near to God by confessing your sins. Set aside some time to get quiet and invite the Holy Spirit to search your heart (Psalm 139:23-24) and as He shows you your sin confess it. Agree that you've sinned.

Thank God that it is forgiven, and that God's wrath is satisfied because of Jesus. Invite the Holy Spirit to lead you in this area and to empower you to walk in obedience.