

EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN
JESUS CHRIST, OUR ADVOCATE
1 JOHN 2:1-2

Introduction

It would be desirable for us who are Believers to never sin, Amen! But understand that though we may strive and should strive in this life to not sin, we will not attain to sinless perfection!

There are some who claim to have achieved sinless perfection in their lives. However, *1 John 1:8-10* deals very bluntly with anyone who would claim that they have gotten to the place in their lives where they do not sin!

We've taken a look the last two weeks at what happens when a Believer sins. Tonight I want us to look at these first two verses of Chapter 2 that also speaks to the issue of sin in a Believer's life.

Tonight, I want to help us come to a greater understanding of Christ's role in our lives when we sin. It says there in verse 1 that "*...we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous...*"

Let's see tonight, **JESUS CHRIST, OUR ADVOCATE!**

I. JESUS CHRIST IS OUR PRESENT *ADVOCATE!* (VS. 1)

The word *ADVOCATE* here is from the Greek word *PARACLETE* which means "*to call or summon to one's side*"

This exact word is used only five times. In *John 14:16, 26; 15:26 and 16:7* it is translated "*Comforter*" in relation to both Christ and the Holy Spirit. The picture being that of *someone to stand by you* OR *the help of one who lends his presence to his friend.*

We are familiar with the word *ADVOCATE* in a legal setting. The *ADVOCATE* is *one who pleads the case of another.* So in our day an *ADVOCATE* would be a *lawyer or counselor.*

Although there are similarities in the legal use of the term *ADVOCATE*, let me contrast the normal *ADVOCATE* and Jesus as our *ADVOCATE.*

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A. THE NORMAL ADVOCATE:

1. Pleads innocent on behalf of his client.
2. If he is guilty, then he pleads some sort of justification.
3. If proven guilty, asks for punishment to be lenient.
4. Client pays for crime.
5. Advocate is finished (unless involved in appeals process.)

B. JESUS AS OUR ADVOCATE:

1. Admits our guilt as we must.
2. Knows that there is no justification for our sin.
3. Knows the punishment for our sins is just.
4. Christ paid on our behalf...He pleads His blood and our faith in it!
5. Our Advocate continues to intercede on our behalf.

When we as Believer sins, we need our *ADVOCATE* even more than we may realize. The text says, "*...we have an ADVOCATE...*"

This *ADVOCATE*, Who is an **EVER PRESENT *ADVOCATE***, is **only for Believers.** The unbeliever does not have anyone to come along side of him who can make a plea to God concerning his sin!

The unbeliever can only come to Christ, be saved, and then have this benefit as a brother or sister in Christ; but the **EVER PRESENT *ADVOCATE*** is for Believers only!

We as Believers must plead guilty when we have sinned. We must agree with the LORD concerning our sin! Our ever **PRESENT *ADVOCATE*** knows that we have sinned, and if we confess our sin, He is ready to plead our case on the mercy of the court. He knows we will receive mercy because He paid for our mercy with His own precious blood!

Now please note the second point.

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JESUS CHRIST IS OUR PRESENT ADVOCATE...

II. JESUS CHRIST IS OUR POSITIONED ADVOCATE! (Vs 1)

The text says, "...we have an **ADVOCATE** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous..."

Understand that **Jesus has unlimited access to the Father!** The sinless Son of God has the privilege of going into the presence of the Father Who must hide His face from our sins.

We could not go to the Father directly with sin in our life, but through Jesus Christ, as children of God, we can get to the Father because we **go through Jesus**. He, alone, is "**with**" the Father. **He is the properly POSITIONED ADVOCATE!**

Can you imagine being in trouble with the law and your **ADVOCATE**, your attorney, was the son of the one sitting on the bench? If this were in our court system the opposing counsel might argue there was conflict of interest!

I don't think we have any problems understanding the importance of this positioning! Our **ADVOCATE** is "**with**" the Father, and that's right where we need Him!

Notice a third thing...

III. JESUS CHRIST IS OUR PERFECT ADVOCATE ! (Vs 1)

Jesus is our **PERFECT ADVOCATE** because He is, as the text says, "*Jesus Christ the righteous.*" As a man named Jesus, He lived as a human being, and knows our weaknesses.

Hebrews 2:18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

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As the Christ, Jesus is God's Anointed and He is uniquely qualified for this function He performs on our behalf because He alone is acceptable to God the Father.

As the Righteous, He will grant His righteousness to His brothers and sisters who come to God through Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

In God's court, His system of justice demands righteousness; therefore, Jesus Christ the righteous, is **THE PERFECT ADVOCATE!**

We can not attain a position of righteousness through our works. We must receive righteousness as a gift. (**Romans 4:4-6**)

Who is perfect enough to grant righteousness to another? Only God, and He has chosen to grant righteousness to others only through His Son, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Jesus has no sin! And because of that He is able to be the Mediator between God and man. When Christians sin, they need a **PERFECT ADVOCATE**, and they have one in Jesus the righteous.

Notice now a fourth thing...

IV. JESUS CHRIST IS OUR PLEASING ADVOCATE! (Vs. 2)

This second verse uses an unusual word to most, "**PROPITIATION**".

That is not a word that we use today...So, what does this word mean?

In history, it meant *the appeasing of an angry God by some acceptable offering*. It is *that which will turn away anger and render one favorable*. It is *an acceptable offering...an atoning sacrifice!*

However, in history the pagan worshiper would not know what it took to satisfy his God. There would always be an unknown, or a variable.

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And what might be an acceptable **PROPITIATION** one time might not be the next.

The term **PROPITIATION** used to describe the sacrifice for sin by Jesus Christ the righteous has some significant differences. They are:

1. **God, Himself initiated this PROPITIATION; it was not the thought of the sinner!**
1 John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
2. **God does not change what is required! Jesus alone and always is the PROPITIATION for our sin!**
3. **This PROPITIATION never denies sin or guilt nor tries to change God.**

So, even though there is similarity in that a **PROPITIATION** satisfies the required offering for sin, the New Testament use greatly elevates the word.

Jesus is our **PROPITIATION!** Jesus is our **ATONEMENT!**
Jesus is our **PAYMENT** for sin! Our **ADVOCATE** and Him alone pleased the Heavenly Father and satisfied His wrath against our sin!

- V. **JESUS CHRIST IS OUR POWERFUL ADVOCATE! (Vs 2)**
The last part of vs. 2 includes the entire population ". . . but also for the sins of the whole world."

However, **the unbeliever must repent of his unbelief and come to Jesus if he wants to be forgiven!** There is enough pardon in the sacrifice of Jesus to forgive all who will come to Him!

John 1:12 "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"

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He is not just a **good way of salvation**, or the **best way of salvation**.
He is the only way for salvation to be obtained!

John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Conclusion

As Believers, we have a **POWERFUL ADVOCATE!** His death alone can atone for sins! God has chosen Him to be the one and only remedy for sin! Therefore: WHEN WE AS BELIEVERS SIN...

WE HAVE A PRESENT ADVOCATE
WE HAVE A POSITIONED ADVOCATE
WE HAVE A PERFECT ADVOCATE
WE HAVE A PLEASING ADVOCATE
WE HAVE A POWERFUL ADVOCATE

The questions is, IS HE YOUR ADVOCATE?