

Back to the Basics

1 John 2:1. 2

I. We are all without excuse.

- On Easter Sunday, I preached about our basic sinful nature – that none of us is good. We all fall short of the ten commandments which would be a good basis of determining how God sees us. Basically, we are all lying, stealing, cheating, adulterous sinners! We do not measure up to God’s standards. Some took offense to this – some of us think of ourselves as good – and we are if our measuring stick is other people – but in correlation to God, we fail miserably. We all do – I am chief of sinners, said Paul, but that was before Tab Gray. I hate legalism in the Church – it is despicable to me. However, with that being said – we look at today’s passage and context and the first thing that we learn is:

a. We can’t say that we haven’t sinned.

- i. 1 John 1:8, 10
- ii. Romans 3:12. “All have turned away; they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”
- iii. Romans 3:23, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”- if we have just committed one sin in our lives, then in comparison to God, we have missed the mark, HIS standard.
- iv. Psalm 14:3, “All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.”
- v. Psalm 53:3, “Everyone has turned away, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.”

b. We need to stop making excuses.

i. Stop giving our sin a different name or making excuses!

1. it’s a weakness I have
2. it’s my personality – I’m a passionate person
3. it’s the way I was raised
4. oh, everybody does that – it’s only a few miles over the speed limit
5. Why do I need to declare that at the border?

** The reality is that the more we make excuses for the smallest of things, the easier it is to rationalize and make excuses for the ‘big things’. We also set an example for our children and grandchildren. (i.e. ever wondered why your kids do some of the things they do?)

ii. **Stop blaming it on someone else!**

1. Genesis – It's the woman...
2. 'they made me act this way'

iii. **Stop blaming God!**

1. Genesis – it's the woman you gave me.
2. God, you made me this way!

- c. We never have a good excuse to sin , and John seems to say here in verse 1 of Chapter 2 – “There is never any need to sin – **we have no excuse** – **SIN IS SIN** – but when we do sin (not if we do), then...

II. **We have an advocate to defend us!**

a. Who – Jesus Christ!

b. Who is this Jesus?

i. **He is Righteous**

1. Definition of Righteous - Blameless, honorable, correct
2. Without Blemish or fault!
 - a. The Lamb – perfect and white, fresh as a baby lamb. Jewish people understood this better than we do. They knew that God would only accept a sacrifice of quality, purity – not our second best, no the leftovers. Therefore, we see John the Baptist's description of Jesus in a whole new light.
 - i. John 1:36, “When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"
3. Without fault or sin – perfect! Why the need to be perfect?
 - a. God would only accept a sacrifice of quality and purity – anything else would not be acceptable.
 - i. Malachi 1:6-14

- ii. **He was our Atonement - our sacrifice, our payment – He took our place!**
 - 1. **He turned away God’s wrath**
 - a. **We don’t like to talk about God’s wrath – we prefer to talk about how loving and kind, gentle and good that HE is but scripture tells us of HIS wrath.**
 - i. **Remember Sodom and Gomorrah**
 - ii. **Remember the Flood**
 - iii. **The Book of Revelation tells us that there will be judgment and damnation!!!**
 - 2. **He paid the price for our error – He paid our fine!**
 - 3. **He made reparation for our sin, our mistake**
 - a. **Have you ever had some one take blame for you?**
 - i. **My sister did when I was little – I remember when I was 8...**

So what – how does this apply to us today?

- **First of all – we should ask, “how do we currently stand before God” – has a sacrifice been paid for our sins?**
 - a. **Romans 6:23**
 - b. **Romans 10:9**
- **Secondly – we should ask, “how should I live my life in response to what Jesus has done for me?”**
 - a. **Will you commit yourself to HIM this day? Will you start living for HIM first, with a heart of ‘overflowing gratitude’?**
- **Thirdly – as we take communion, Remember HIM!**