



Park Community Church 1 John 1:10 – 2:6

This term advocate comes from the Latin 'advocare' meaning *to summon for counsel*. It is currently defined as "one that pleads the cause of another".

The history of the term is rooted in the legal system where a team of professionals who specialized in legal issues and would render assistance to people struggling with legal matters. Advocates offer advice or counsel to people who are unfamiliar with the legal system and speak out for people who lack the ability to do so on their own.

When we think about the beauty of having Christ as our advocate, the phrase "lacking the ability to speak out on their own" is a real and sobering truth about our human nature. In this passage of 1 John we see that Jesus stands as the propitiation for the sins of the whole world; he became the voice that advocated for our salvation and righteousness.

So what is our response to this gift? How do we abide in this newfound righteousness? Verse 4 is unmistakably clear, "The one who says 'I have come to know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." The message version says it this way, "His life doesn't match his words".

What does it look like to "walk in the same manner He walked?" What does it look like to abide in Christ?

Read 1 John 1: 10 - 2:1-6

1:10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world. 3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

Observations from the text:

1. We meet people who say they haven't sinned. What does this text say is the result of that statement?
2. How does John address his audience? How would you summarize his purpose in writing in a clear yet brief statement?
3. Verse 2 further describes what our Advocate does for us as individuals and all humanity.
4. What does it "propitiation" mean?
5. What's the clear test of knowing you have a relationship with Jesus? Why is this the test?
6. List the attributes of one who is known "in Him" and "not in Him" from verse 4 – 6.

<u>In Him</u>	<u>Not In Him</u>
---------------	-------------------

Application from the Text

7. Read Matthew 11:29. Reflect on that verse in light of 1 John 2:6. Who do the two relate? What does Jesus mean by taking his yoke upon you?
8. What would it have meant for people to walk as Jesus walked in a predominately pagan culture? What does that look like today?

9. In what areas of your life do you “walk as he walked”? What does that look like?
10. Where do you find yourself consistently disobeying his commandments?
11. How does the power of the gospel help you to obediently keep his commands?
12. As a small group community, how can you celebrate obedience, and help one another in areas where consistent disobedience occurs?

Group exercise:

Listed below are 10 questions great for believers to ask one another. In groups of 2 or 3, begin to take a few of these questions and honestly answer them. Then, determine check in times outside the group to continue answering these questions.

Daily Pursuit: Have you had daily time reading the Bible? Have they been meaningful? How is God speaking to you through his word?

Prayer Pursuit: Have you been spending time in prayer? Are you listening to God’s promptings?

Personal Pursuit: Have your interactions with members of the opposite sex been above reproach?

Purity Pursuit: Have you exposed yourself to any explicit materials this week?

Circle of 3 Pursuit: How are you engaging and praying for your “Circle of 3?” What is the next step you can take to cultivate those relationships?

Disciple Pursuit: What are your personal and spiritual discipline goals? Are you fulfilling those goals?

Relationship Pursuit: How have you invested in significant relationships this past week? Are you growing deeper in your relationships with others?

Tongue Pursuit: Have you been critical, judged, or gossiped about others this week?

Stewardship Pursuit: What can you do to better steward your time, talent, and treasure?

Honest Pursuit: Have you been honest with all your answers?



PARK
COMMUNITY CHURCH

© 2009 Park Community Church
1001 N. Crosby St. | Chicago, IL 60610
www.parkcommunitychurch.org