

**Title:** Prove it!

**Text:** 1 John 2:1-14

**Target:** You are not sinless, but you have been called to sin less.

- I. **The Establishment of our Salvation:** *"My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin,"* (Vs.1a)
  - A. **Jesus is our Advocate:** *"...we have an advocate with the Father,"* (Vs.1b)
  - B. **Jesus is our Acceptance:** *"Jesus Christ the righteous."* (Vs.1c)
  - C. **Jesus is our Atonement:** *"He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."* (Vs. 2)
- II. **The Evidence of our Salvation:** *"And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments."* (Vs. 3)
  - A. **Faith in Jesus for Salvation:** *"Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,"* (Vs. 4)
  - B. **Application of the Scriptures:** *"...but whoever keeps his word,"* (Vs. 5a)
  - C. **Changed by Sanctification:** *"...the love of God is perfected."* (Vs.5b)
  - D. **Testimony of Surrender:** *"whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked."* (Vs. 6)
- III. **The Examination of our Salvation:** *"The old commandment is the word that you have heard. At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining."* (Vs. 7b-8)
  - A. **Walk in the Light:**
    1. **Old Command:** *"You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD"* (Leviticus 19:18)
    2. **New Command:** *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* (John 13:34-35)
  - B. **Blinded by Darkness:** *"Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness."* (Vs. 9)
    1. **Consumed with Hatred:** *"But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness,"* (Vs. 11a)
    2. **Constrained by Revenge:** *"and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes."* (Vs. 11b)
- IV. **The Encouragement in our Salvation:** *"I am writing you, little children,"* (Vs. 12a)
  - A. **You have been Forgiven:** *"your sins are forgiven for his name's sake."* (Vs. 12b)
  - B. **You have a Father:** *"I write to you, children, because you know the Father."* (Vs. 13)
  - C. **You have Freedom:** *"you have overcome the evil one."* (2x) (Vs. 13,14)

**Takeaway:** Your salvation is more than a decision in the past, it is a direction in the present.

## Discussion Questions:

Picture Jesus as your attorney that is pleading your case before The Father. Not only is He advocating for you, He also served your sentence for you. Have you ever thought of Jesus as your advocate? What about as your atonement? How could/should this understanding change the way you relate (spend time with) to Jesus daily?

Furthermore, being reminded of this, are you compelled to walk or live accordingly? John states several times in his writings that we evidence our belief and faith in Jesus when we live according to His commandments. We are reminded in John 13:34-35 to love one another as a way of showing the world who we are and whose we are.

This requires us to love our neighbor (see Luke 10:25-37). All of our neighbors. Even the ones we don't like. Even the ones that don't like us. When was the last time you had compassion for someone that was far from God? When was the last time that you saw your "enemy" the way that God sees them?

Pray and ask for God to soften your heart towards those you don't like and those that don't like you. Ask Him to give you eyes for the lost and a heart for the broken.