

## OVERCOMING OUR SIN WITH HIS LOVE That You May Know - I John Series - WEEK 3 Ben Rudolph

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Good morning Life Fellowship. It is so good to be back with you. Pastor Dan did a great job introducing this book of I John, and I am glad to be able to continue this series today. Over the last couple of weeks I have been hearing over and over from people wanting to know when things are going to be back to normal. We have entered into Phase One of this post Covid 19 quarantine, and there is just so much swirling, so much information, but there is this one common question - when are we going to get back to normal? When is church going to get back to normal? When is work going to get back to normal? When is school going to get back to normal?

There are all these questions of when will we get back to normal. And I am not here to answer that question this morning, but I do think if we turn that towards our own spiritual life it also proposes something that maybe we feel. Throughout this entire season I have been having conversations with lots of you from Life. I recently had a conversation with one of the people in our church and when I asked him, *'How are you doing,'* he said this: *'This entire quarantine has brought out the best in me and the worst in me.'*

And I just thought about that for a moment, about how sometimes when we are taken out of our regular routine, there is a new cycle of ideas and routines. It creates something in us that maybe messes us up internally. Maybe we are less patient with our family, but we are more disciplined in other areas of our lives. And it really does bring out the best in us and the worst in us in some ways, because it can expose a lot of things inside of us. So I believe that question of *'When are we going to get back to normal,'* may have made you think about it spiritually. *'When am I going to get back to normal feeling like I am close to God?' When am I going to get back to normal and my relationship with God is doing better?'*

In this book of I John that we have been studying for the last couple of weeks we see that it is one of those books that really deals with the essence of what it means to have a real relationship with Jesus. So many times we think that we are doing better than we really are, or people think that they have a relationship with God when they really don't. And John, as he is writing this letter toward the end of his life, is looking back and saying he has had this real experience with Jesus, and he wants us to have this real experience with Jesus as well.

For the last two Sundays Dan has been building the foundation of our understanding of what it means to have a real relationship with God so that we many know it. That word 'know' is mentioned throughout the entire book of I John. In fact it is mentioned I believe twenty-one times. This idea that we know for use, we know by experience. I don't mean just know theoretically, but to know it inside our heart, to

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know it because we have experienced it. That is the kind of knowledge that we are hoping we all have as a result of this study.

The other word that is mentioned a lot in I John is the word ‘abide.’ And the word abide is mentioned eighteen times. I think about how John the Apostle wrote this letter toward the end of his life, and I can imagine him remembering back to when he was a teenager sitting in that upper room with Jesus and hearing Jesus say things like, ‘*Abide in me and I in you, for apart from me you can do nothing.*’ John has lived this out now for probably close to six decades of what it means to abide in Jesus when he was with Him and then after He was resurrected and ascended into Heaven.

So now we have this older gentleman, John the Apostle, who has been through all of these experiences and now he wants to share it. And today the point of my sermon is very simple because John lets us know what this next section is about, this text that we are going to be reading. We are going to be in Chapter 2 and verses 1 through 6 this morning. And it says in the very first verse, “***My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.***”

Now that is great. It is like when you are talking to someone and they ask, ‘*What is the point of this entire argument?*’ ‘*What is the point of this show?*’ ‘*What is the point of this movie?*’ John is one of these guys who just lays it out plain, clear, simple and distinct. In this section here, these next six verses, John is saying he is writing these things to us that we may not sin. John knows that one of the greatest enemies in our experiencing Jesus, in our relationship with Jesus, and our lack of abiding in Him is our relationship with sin.

Dan talked a lot about this last week, that when we have this relationship with sin that is dysfunctional, are we really a believer or not? But once we have His forgiveness, once we cross over that line from being a sinner to now being a follower of Jesus, there is something radical that happens inside of us. Not only is our relationship with Jesus different, our relationship with sin is different as well.

And that is what we are going to talk about this morning. How do we keep ourselves from sinning? How do we live a life that is honoring to Jesus, a life of love? When we think about that we need to understand that our relationship with sin is different now because of Jesus, because of our relationship with Him, because of our putting our faith and trust in Him for what He did for us on the cross.

It is the difference between a noun and a verb. Let me explain it to you this way. A noun is like a state of being. Before Christ we are in a state of sin. We are sinners; the noun describes who we are. But once we are accepted by Christ through our faith in

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Him, then what happens is we have a new state, a new position. Now we are sons and daughters and we are inside the family. We are now forgiven, redeemed and justified. We now have this new position, but we still have a problem with the verb of sin. We still sin, we still actively do things because now we are caught in between this world of being justified by His blood and declared righteous, and one day I will have no sin when I am with Jesus. But right now there is this tension that I have that sometimes I do sin and sometimes I don't sin. So how can I live a life where I am abiding in Christ even more?

So that is what we are going to be talking about today. There are a lot of different solutions to address this problem in our lives. And when I think about the solutions that I have used in my past, and solutions you may be using to try and clean up your own life, we have to understand we need to address these problems. One of those solutions is when we think we just need to know more, if we just read more, if we just study more, if we just understand more about the Bible. That is a knowledge based approach to solving our sin problem. And that could be a part of it.

But here is what I know. When I was in high school and taking driver's education they showed us these videos about all these horrible wrecks that happen when you drink and drive. And as horrible as those videos were they were giving us a lot of knowledge. They showed what happens when you drink and drive, they showed us the fatality rates, they talked about the possibility of going to jail, and all these horrible things that happen to people who drink and drive. So we had the knowledge of things that could happen to people who drink and drive but the thing these videos couldn't do was to change our hearts. So sometimes we think if we just grow in our understanding of something it will change our behavior and that is not true.

Another thing that I think we try to do to fix our behavior is religion or accountability. Maybe if I put myself in the right environment, or if I have an accountability partner, or someone who will check up on me, like a police officer would give me a ticket if I was speeding. So we think maybe that will fix the problem. But we find out again that even putting fences around us and having accountability doesn't change our internal heart.

We also may think that we can just try harder and discipline ourselves. We think we can create boundaries for our lives. We plan to wake up at this time, cut this out of our life and just white knuckle it into trying harder. We think we can just do all these good things by trying harder. But we find out even when we try harder it doesn't fix the internal problem of sin. Maybe it works for a season, but not for long term.

The last way we may try to fix our problem with sin is maybe we just move the standard. We just decide to grade ourselves on a curve. We keep making the same

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mistakes and we keep rebelling against God the same way, so it is just easier for us to say, ‘*Well, maybe that is not as bad as we thought it was.*’

Those are all ways we try to deal with our sin, but internally when we have this struggle, our soul can’t lie. So what happens is we feel this tension, and we want to live better, we want to not sin as John said here, but we just keep sinning, we just keep doing things we know we shouldn’t. It is not a matter of knowledge, it is not a matter of trying harder, it is not a matter of being religious, or putting up an accountability framework around us. What we need is something deeper and John is going to share that with us this morning.

In verse 1 he says, “***My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin.***” So here is a new way of thinking about this. John is writing this so that we may not sin, but then he goes on to say this: “***But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. Whoever says, ‘I know Him’ but does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in Him, but whoever keeps His word, in Him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in Him: whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked.***”

That is a powerful passage and it contains a lot of things for us to learn. And there is something important in here that John is saying. Once you cross that line, once you enter into that relationship with Jesus, once you have received the light, once you have received His forgiveness, there is something new that has happened. We have a new relationship and the key to not sinning, the key to not sin John said, that key is rooted in love. It is not about trying harder and it is not about accountability. Those things may be good in and of themselves but they don’t solve the problem of changing our desires.

John is saying there is something deeper at work and that is love. So this morning we are going to look at love realized, love confronted and love completed. The solution for our sin problem is love and that is what I want for us as a takeaway this morning. The first thing we need to do is look at love realized. And John says this in the very beginning, “***I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.***” John is probably in his 70s or 80s when he writes this letter, and here is what he knows: He knows that even as an older gentlemen, even as someone who has walked with Jesus, even as someone who knows God’s Word, that he still sinned.

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But as a follower of Jesus it is different, because if we do sin we need to understand that we have an advocate with the Father and that is Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins. So what he is saying is when we understand that when we sin we don't have to run from God, and instead we have to learn to run to God. And that goes against every natural inclination of our heart, because we know that the moment Adam and Eve sinned the first thing they did was to run from God, it was to hide from Him, and to cover themselves because of their shame.

And what John is saying is that since we are in His family now we should run to Jesus when we sin. When we run from God we think we have to clean up our mess before we can go back to God. And John is saying, *'No, no, no, the gospel changes all of that. I want you to understand how much Jesus loves you and how much He is fighting for you. He is your advocate.'*

That word 'advocate' literally means 'helper.' If you remember our series on the Holy Spirit we spent an entire week on the Holy Spirit as a helper. That Greek word '*paraclete*' means someone who comes along and puts their arms around you. So John is referring back to the Upper Room discourse again. He is saying, *'Listen Jesus said He is sending us the Holy Spirit as a paraclete. I want you to know that when you sin, Jesus is your helper. He is the one who goes before the Father. He is the one who stands before Him and says, "They are under my blood. They are under my righteousness. That sin is now accounted for, and all you have for them Father is love."*

One of the greatest verses in all of Scripture is Romans Chapter 8 and verse 1. This is after Paul is describing his struggle against sin in Romans Chapter 7 where he says, ***"For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me."*** There is a tension that we always feel in our struggle against sin. And Paul begins Chapter 8 of Romans by saying this: ***"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."***

God is our helper. He wants to help us. He wants to surround us. There is a great picture of this in Hebrews Chapter 4 where there is this picture of how God helps us. There is this picture of a high priest, someone who stands before God. There are a lot of ways in which Jesus helps us when we sin, but I love this description of Jesus as our great high priest. Remember that a high priest offered the sacrifice in the tabernacle and in the temple. He was the go between the holiness of God and the sinfulness of man. Jesus was the sacrifice Himself on the cross, and He is also that high priest who is active for us.

I want to read this beautiful picture of Jesus as our high priest in Hebrews Chapter 4 and verse 14 where it says this: ***"Since then we have a great high priest who has***

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*passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses.”*

He is saying here that even though Jesus was sinless, He can sympathize with our weaknesses, because He took on human flesh. *“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.”*

What is so amazing about that is it means that Jesus understands our struggles with temptation. It means that He can sympathize. It means there is a compassion that Jesus has with our struggle against sin. Have you ever talked with someone because you have a problem in a certain area, maybe you have a health issue, or a financial problem? The best person to talk to when we have a problem like that is to talk to someone who has been through that same problem. If you are dealing with financial issues it is great to talk to someone who has been in debt themselves, because they can share with you what they have learned from it.

If you go to someone who has experienced what you are going through with they are not going to look at you with shame. They are not going to look at you and think, ‘*What is wrong with you?*’ No, they are going to know exactly what you are going through because they have also experienced it. Do you realize that is what Jesus does for us? When we go to Him with our failures He understands the struggles. We don’t have to run from Him, we don’t have to hide from Him, we don’t have to be afraid of Him. He wants us to run to Him when we fail, not run away from Him. Jesus is that faithful and merciful high priest.

So when we understand that Jesus understands us in our weakness, listen to what it says in Romans Chapter 4 and verse 16: *“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”* He is saying He wants us to run to Him, to run to His throne that is not a throne of judgment, not a throne of anger, not a throne of fear, but a throne of grace. He wants us to come to Him so that He can pour out His mercy and grace on us. He wants us to understand that He is there to help us in our time of need.

I love that word ‘help’ there because it is only used twice in Scripture. It is used to describe what happened when their boat was going through a storm. When their boat was being rocked back and forth by the waves and the wind, the rope that they would use to tie themselves down, or to anchor themselves to something greater so they wouldn’t be tossed back and forth, is what describes this word ‘help.’ John is saying that when you are going through the storms of life, when you are struggling with sin and you feel like sin is greater than you can say no to, you can know that you can come to Jesus because

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He will give you the help that you need. Man, that is amazing. That is awesome to think about.

So when we think about our natural tendency to run away from God when we sin, He is inviting us and saying, *'When you sin, you run to me, because I am your advocate, I am your best defense, I am your best comfort, I am your best help.'* We have to retrain our thinking because what God wants us to do is to realize how much He loves us. When we understand how much He loves us, we will draw near to Him. What I have found in my own life is that people draw near to those who have compassion, people draw near to those who have understanding, and people draw near to those who have grace. Jesus does not compromise truth, but He gives us truth in love.

And that leads us to the next point. He is saying He wants us to run to Him when we sin. In verse 3 he says, ***"And by this we know that we have come to know Him,"*** (and there is that word 'know') ***"if we keep His commandments. Whoever says, 'I know Him' but does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in Him."*** John is going to keep reiterating this point over and over and over again throughout the entire book. He is saying it like this in simple terms: *'If you say that you are a follower of Jesus, but you don't care if you sin, or if your life just keeps getting progressively worse, then you have a problem. You may not truly be a believer.'*

One of the things that we have to constantly do is to check our hearts. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to check us and ask if we are truly a follower of Jesus. Peter says in II Peter Chapter 1 that we are to do everything to make our calling and election sure. He wants us to make sure that we have the security of God's love, but if our life does not look like His life, or if there is not a progression of growth and understanding then it is like we just throw it in the garbage can. If we are not loving Him back by the way we are living we may not have His love.

So John is confronting this over and over again, kind of like a checkmark to say, *'You can know, you can have security in your faith when you look at your life and how you view your relationship with sin.'* If you are someone who says, *'Man, I hate this. I don't want to keep doing this. I struggle against it. I want to live a more righteous life,'* then that is a sign that God's love is in you. But if you are someone who says, *'I don't really care about my sin. It doesn't bother me,'* that is a sign that you may not have a relationship with Jesus.

So it is this idea of confronting our love. John says this in verse 5: ***"But whoever keeps His word, in Him truly the love of God is perfected."*** There is that word 'love,' and what he is saying is this, *'When you do anything, whether you are keeping His commandments, or whether you are living life in your own way and rebelling against*

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*God, it is a reflection of love.* So when we sin, what is our response? What is our internal response? I think what we have to do is confront our hearts and ask why we are doing this. A lot of times we need to evaluate what we are doing. And then say, *'I'm going to start doing this and stop doing that.'* And when we fail and we struggle and we sin we need to take the time to pause and ask, *'Why did I do this?'*

It is kind of like when you are in school and you have this project like in biology where you have to dissect these creatures. We would start small like with a worm, and then move to a grasshopper, and then maybe we would get a frog next. And if you were in honors biology you got to do a baby shark. I really never cared to do that, but the whole idea is that they wanted us to see the inner workings of these creatures so we could understand what was going on in them and how they worked.

What I find that most of us do when we sin is we respond in ways that are not healthy. One response might be self-pity, or self-hatred. And we beat ourselves up. Or maybe we just ignore it, or we pretend it didn't happen, or we cover it up and try to deceive ourselves. There are all these different unhealthy ways in which we respond to our sin. And instead of getting angry, or instead of lying or deceiving ourselves about it, what we need to do is get curious. What we need to do is say, *'Okay, I have to figure out why I keep doing this.'* And we need to crack open that sin in order to understand what the motivation is. And here is the question we need to ask ourselves - what is the love behind this behavior?

I think what a lot of us do is we have these desires that we crave in our souls, we have something that is craving to be met. We crave acceptance, we crave pleasure, we crave comfort, we crave security, or we crave a purpose in life. These are all good things, but what I have found is that most of our sin is rooted in these deep cravings that we have longing to be met. And we are meeting them in a way that we want to meet them. We are not going to God asking Him to meet this need, asking Him to fulfil this desire of acceptance, or this desire for comfort. Instead we want to comfort ourselves in our own way.

I think about a passage in Psalms 42 that says, ***"As the deer pants for the streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God."*** Jesus tells the woman at the well that there is an internal thirst we all have, a desire for something greater, a desire for fulfilment to be satisfied. The last time I preached I mentioned in Isaiah Chapter 55 where it talks about this longing that we have to be truly satisfied internally. And whenever we try to satisfy that internal need in our own way that is when we sin. So the key is to understand what we are really after. We want this craving met but we shouldn't want to do it our

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own way, because when we try to meet our own needs it just creates chaos. And we don't understand it until we open ourselves up.

I have a younger brother who is ten years younger than me. And when he was about five or six years old, he went into my mom and dad's room. He found my mom's perfume, and he sprayed it once because he thought it smelled really good. So he thought he could make my parents room smell really good, and he started spraying that perfume on everything in the room. I don't know how many squirts of that perfume he sprayed, but let me tell you that room really smelled. You know that saying about having too much of a good thing, that moment right there was too much of a good thing. It was one of the stories in our family that we love to talk about when we get together or when my brother sprayed perfume all over my parents' room.

What did my brother want? He wanted this room to smell good. But he did it in his own way. He thought the more perfume he sprayed the better it was going to smell, but what he ended up doing was creating a worse experience. And that is exactly what we do. We have this internal craving that our soul thinks we want. Maybe it is love, maybe it is acceptance, maybe it is comfort, maybe it is pleasure, maybe it is purpose, or maybe it is identity. But we try to find it in our own wisdom and our own way. And when we do we end up choosing to love something more than God. We end up not trusting in God enough and choose to do it our own way. And we need to confront those loves and ask ourselves what we love more than Jesus. One of the things that I have found is that sometimes we want something from Jesus more than we want Jesus Himself, but the love of God is perfected when we keep His commands.

The last point is this - not only do we have to realize the love that Jesus has for us, not only do we have to confront the love that is in our own hearts that is behind the behavior, but love is also completed. John says it right here in this passage: ***“But whoever keeps His word, in Him truly the love of God is perfected.”*** And he goes on to say: ***“By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked.”***

Our motivation for why we do what we do is so important because of what we can do in our Christian life. I talked about a list before that we try to do to confront our own sins. We can get pretty far on our own efforts sometimes and we can get pretty far trying to prove ourselves to other people because our pride can drive us to do righteous things. But there is something deeper that sustains us for the long haul. There is something deeper that creates a life that is truly reflective of Jesus, not a manmade standard of righteousness, but a standard of righteousness that is rooted in the person of Jesus Christ. And that has to be rooted in love.

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It says love is completed, perfected; it is something that is fulfilled when we respond in love. So the way it works is this - when we sin we need to learn how to run to God as our advocate. And we need to understand His love does not diminish for us when we sin, nor does it increase for us when we do what is right. It gives us an understanding of the gospel. It gives us an understanding of the love of God that is so supernatural, so powerful because it becomes the ultimate motivating force in our lives. We are no longer doing things because we are trying to earn something, or because we are afraid something is going to be taken away from us. And that is what drives so many of us.

Instead of focusing on trying not to do something bad, we need our focus to be on how good this is. It is kind of like when you are driving down a road and you see this big pothole. Sometimes I find that the more I drive just being focused on missing the potholes is usually when I end up hitting them instead of missing them. And I think that happens to us so many times when our life is focused on trying not to do this, and trying not to do that. Our entire focus may be on avoiding sin, and we are more focused on our behavior with wickedness and the evil than we are trying to keep ourselves from, as opposed to the greatness of God's love that should be driving us to Him.

So instead of saying, '*I am going to avoid this,*' we should be saying, '*I am going to run towards that.*' We can't just avoid sin; we have to be running toward something and that person is Jesus. John explained that whoever said they abide in Jesus also should walk in the same way in which He walked. And I love that phrase because when you love something, or someone, you want to be just like them. It just drives you to study that person and understand that person.

When I was younger I loved to play basketball. And I remember watching this documentary on the life of Michael Jordan and his career in the NBA. And I remember those years in which he was the ultimate. In my opinion he is still the greatest basketball player of all time. And if you played basketball there wasn't anyone who played in the late 80s and throughout the 90s that didn't want to be a player like Michael Jordan. People would dress like him and after watching his videos they would try and emulate him. It was all about trying to be just like Mike.

And when I think about that and how people wanted to be like the greatest, I realize they didn't need an accountability partner to do that. They didn't need someone over them saying, '*You need to make sure you dribble the ball this way.*' There was no pressure, no accountability, no thinking they just needed to try harder; there was just something inside of them that made them want to be like Michael Jordan. Therefore they poured their effort into understanding so they could learn how to do what he does.

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And that is the way that we need to be with Jesus. That we become so captivated by His love that we learn about Him, we learn what it is like to think like Him. We need to study His life, we need to study the way that He was humble, and the way He was dependent on His Father. I think one of the things that happens when we study the life of Jesus is it becomes clearly evident that He had a special intimacy with His Father, a dependency on Him. It didn't matter how righteous Jesus lived there was this humble dependency that He woke up with every single morning.

I think the longer that we walk with Jesus and the more we study His life, the more we will want to walk like He walked and there will be a humble dependency on Him. We won't be thinking we have done really well because we have taken two steps forward. If we start thinking we are doing great, we may be tempted then to think we can take our hands off the wheel which would lead us to making bad decisions again. So we need this intentional day by day pursuit of the person of Jesus. And when we do that our love is completed. We are learning to live like Him, to talk like Him, because of the response in our hearts of the love He has for us.

So in this section John is telling us he is writing these things to us so that we may not sin. And I want you to think about your life right now, the things you are doing and the things you are not doing. You might be feeling frustrated right now because of the level of sin that you have in your life. Maybe it is more than frustration, maybe there is discouragement that you have in your life right now. Maybe it is greater than discouragement and there is a resignation that this is just the way your life is going to be, that you are always going to have this struggle. And you start to believe the lie that Satan is giving you that this is about sin management and not about overcoming sin.

Maybe you are just sitting there and you are apathetic. No matter where you are on this spectrum of your response to your own sin, here is what I know. God wants our hearts to be sensitive to Him. It says this in Hebrews Chapter 3 and verse 13: ***“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”***

Sin can harden our hearts. So what we need to do is ask God to refresh our hearts again, to make us sensitive to our own sins, so that we don't keep making the same mistakes and falling down the same trap. We need to be motivated out of love and not out of pride or fear that can drive us in our behavior.

I want to leave you with a few questions and then I am done. Number one - what are the solutions you keep defaulting to on your own? Is your default just trying harder? Is your default just wanting more accountability, more fences? Is your default trying to grow in your knowledge by reading lots of books and studying things, but not really

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addressing your internal heart? Maybe you are sitting there knowing you have moved the standard, the standard of success and now your standards are so much lower than they used to be. What is your solution for your sin?

The next question is this - how do you respond when you sin? Are you running to Jesus your advocate or are you running away from Him? The third question is - have you done the hard work of curiosity and dissecting your sin? The next time you lose your temper, the next time you gossip, the next time you get anxious and worried, the next time you lust, are you going to stop and dissect what is going on inside of you? We need to find out what our Spirit and soul are really longing after. We have to do the hard work of asking God to show us how He can fulfil this in us.

The last question is this - what is motivating you to keep His commandments? What is motivating you to obey God right now? What is motivating you to wake up and watch this service online? What is motivating you to do the right thing? Is it just because you are trying to keep peace in your home? Is it because you are trying to make this person happy? Is it because you are trying to look good in front of these people or is there a deeper love of Jesus?

I hope that you will respond to His love this morning. And if you are sitting there this morning watching this online and you have never experienced the love of Christ, I want to tell you that love we talked about can be yours. Jesus offers His love to every single person today no matter what you have done in your past, no matter how great your sin account is. The reality is that what Jesus did for you on the cross is real. And He is offering you the chance to be cleansed of your sin and to be given a new purpose, a new identity, and a new family. He is inviting you to accept His gift, His sacrifice on the cross. And you can do that right where you are sitting this morning.

We would love to hear from you if you have questions about how to do that. Or if you have done that we would love to hear from you. We would also love to hear your story of how God is working in your heart. If you have questions about what it means to truly be a follower, to enter into this love relationship with Him, we want to help you make that step. As we conclude this service let's pray and ask God to firm up this truth in our hearts.

*Jesus, no one sitting here watching this sermon wants to continue to sin. We all understand our own struggle and for each and every one of us it may be different. But we know that even though our struggle may be different our solution is the same and it is found in you, Jesus. God, may we see how much greater your love is than our sin. We love you and we want you to help us confront the deep longings in our heart and show us how you can meet those longings fully. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

**OVERCOMING OUR SIN WITH HIS LOVE**  
**That You May Know - I John Series - WEEK 3**  
**Ben Rudolph**

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*The preceding transcript was completed using raw audio recordings. As much as possible, it includes the actual words of the message with minor grammatical changes and editorial clarifications to provide context. Hebrew and Greek words are spelled using Google Translator and the actual spelling may be different in some cases.*