

Paid in full

1 John 2:1-6

1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense-- Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 3 We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. 4 The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. (1 John 2:1-6 NIV)

Four key truths to following Christ:

1. Knowing who we were: a sinner in need of a savior

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense-- Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. (1 John 2:1 NIV)

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Romans 3:23 NIV)

Isaiah 53:6

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38 NIV)

1 John 1:9

We must come to realize that there is something wrong at the very core of our nature.

We don't fight the battle against sin alone:

- We have God's Word.

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. (Psalm 119:11 NIV)

- We have the Holy Spirit empowering us.

"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. (John 16:12-13 NIV)

John 14:16-17

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8 NIV)

- We have a new nature.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (1 Peter 1:3 NIV)

- We have Christ.

I can do everything through him who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:13 NIV)

What reveals the true Christian is not perfection, but what we do when we sin.

2. Knowing who we are: redeemed and forgiven children of God.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:23-24 NIV)

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. (John 1:12-13 NIV)

1 John 3:1-2

3. Knowing who Jesus is and what He has done: He is our redeemer, advocate and righteous one.

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God has an uncompromising hostility toward sin!

4. Knowing how to respond: we must “walk as Jesus did.”

We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. 4 The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. (1 John 2:3-6 NIV)

We aren't saved by obeying; we obey because we are saved.