

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

### Title:

Holy Children

### Speaker:

Steve Heitland

### Date:

November 14, 2021

### Scriptures:

1 John 2:1-6

**Theme:** As God's children, pursue holiness.

**Introduction:** Little children are imitators—they imitate those they love. This means that parents have an especially influential role in shaping their children into who they become. Similarly, those who have trusted in Jesus now have God as our Father. And we are called to imitate him, to grow in holiness so that we glorify our holy God.

John presents 2 aspects for our growth in holiness:

### 1. Two grounds of holiness

John has written to the church about the truth of who God is so that they "may not sin." He is calling them to fight against sin.

But this is not a call to sinless perfection (cf. 1:8). He is very realistic about the reality of indwelling sin, and our ongoing battle.

Three truths recur in this epistle: a) Christians are called to holy lives, by God's grace; b) we still have indwelling sin, so we are in a fight; and c) the genuineness of our profession is demonstrated in bearing fruit, including fighting sin.

For our battle, John equips us with two truths. First, Christ is our advocate. He is the righteous advocate. We can seek forgiveness with confidence that he is for us and that his advocacy is effective.

Second, Christ is our propitiation. He has removed God's wrath and brought us into God's favor by his work for us.

### 2. Two goals of holiness

As we apply the truths above, John gives us two goals. The first is the assurance of salvation. John means for us to be secure in our status before God.

Our assurance is Christ himself. We don't look within ourselves, or outward at our behavior—we look to Christ. In him we have confidence of pardon and grace.

The second goal is obedience. Though our obedience is not the ground of our assurance, it is a necessary fruit of our salvation. Our obedience demonstrates the reality that God has worked decisively in our lives.

Those who profess faith in Christ but do not obey him are liars and should have no confidence before God.

### Questions:

1. How is the Lord calling you to grow in holiness?
2. How well do you understand propitiation? How does it affect you?
3. How does Jesus' advocacy affect your response to God when you sin?