# Letter of Faith & Assurance #6

**1 John 2:1-2** - “If Any Man Sin”

Introduction: We are discussing the holiness of God, and you cannot speak of God’s holiness without being forced to come to the understanding that we are sinners and unholy. When you talk to a person about the reality of their sinfulness, their response will tell you much about them and the condition of their heart.

Now, there is a chapter division, but that does not mean that there is a whole new thought. We are continuation of the same subject. A continuation of the thought presented in verse 9. Verse 6 started off making us aware that we are sinful, on thru verse 8. Then verse nine on to our confessing our sinfulness. Now, John says, “My little children….”

I. Mistaken conclusions.

A. Since I am a sinner…

1. What is the big deal?

a. I am going to sin, so I will go ahead and sin.

b. I can sin and get forgiveness, and repeat …

2. I do not need any standards of morality or conduct on my life.

a. I will do as I please and get forgiveness.

b. John’s words give me a license to sin.

B. John says these are written “that ye sin not”

1. Written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

2. Simply saying while understanding the nature of humanity.

a. He is not condoning sin.

b. A person will sin, but none of their sin is justified.

3. John later mentions the attitude of willful sinning.

a. He wants us to understand that we are never justified in our sin.

b. So that we will never feel comfortable in sin.

4. It is given to you that you SIN NOT!!!4710

II. If any man sin…

A. We have an advocate with the Father.

1. Never to have the attitude of other’s sin looking worse than your own.

a. Do not develop the spirit of comparison.

b. You will never experience the truth of verse 1.

2. If we confess (own up to) and agree with God about our sin, something wonderful is set in motion.

a. People who do not own up to our sins never experience it.

b. There is one who comes along beside me to help me plead my cause.

c. Our advocate (lawyer) is Jesus Christ our Savior.

1) He is the anointed One.

2) He is the Messiah.

3) He is the Righteous ONE.

d. He is our counselor and help.

1) Represents our case before God.

2) Prove to the judge our innocence

(a) even if we know we are guilty

(b) even if He knows we are guilty

e. But God is faithful and just

1) So Jesus the righteous will not stand before God and say we are not guilty.

2) He will stand and claim that we are guilty of sin.

B. We have an adversary the devil who is the accuser of the brethren.

1. There are things that are true the accuser could bring against us.

a. We are unclean, we have sinned, we make mistakes.

b. We could not deny the truth of the accusations.

2. Our advocate will not represent us on the basis on our merit or our good works.

a. His representation on our behalf is on the basis of His own merit.

b. It is Jesus’ righteousness that is our merit for forgiveness.

3. “My little heathens” no…but very understanding of our sin nature.

a. John is writing to us, "I know you will tempted...Don’t sin!”

b. Though we are frail and make mistakes.

4. Jesus pleads our case before the Father, not the judge.

a. When we confess our sin, the Son of God pleads our guilt.

b. Jesus gets forgiveness for us because of His own righteousness.

C. Jesus Christ is the “Propitiation” for our sin.

1. Not for ours only but for the sin of the whole world.

2. Other versions leave this word out.

3. The word “Propitiation” was primarily used in the pagan world.

a. It meant to appease the wrath of an angry god.

1) In worship of Molech, babies were offered to appease the wrath of Molech.

2) In worship of Baal, the people began to dance around and beat the drum and cut themselves to appease the wrath of Baal who had not sent fire.

b. God is a God of wrath (against sin).

1) God judgeth the righteous and is angry with the wicked every day.

2) He hath bent his bow and made ready

3) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven unto all unrighteousness.

4. Propitiation in relation to the God who is, is not the same as it is to the pagan world.

a. Man never initiates propitiation.

b. God initiates appeasement of His wrath Himself.

c. God will not accept for appeasement what He has not initiated.

1) Abel’s offering of the blood of lamb was accepted, but Cain’s offering of his hands was not.

2) Abraham took the ram caught in the thicket which was provided by God and Isaac was spared.

3) God gave orders to His children and nothing would cause the angel to pass over the house accept the blood of the Passover Lamb.

4) On the day of atonement, the sacrificial blood had to be sprinkled on the mercy seat for the sins of the nation of His people.

d. The people did not propitiate their sin, they embraced the propitiation that God provided.

1) You cannot join the church or be baptized or give money to turn His wrath away.

2) God’s wrath is turned away because of the acceptance of His propitiation.

5. Because God is Holy, He can only be angry with sin.

a. But God is Love.

b. When He sees the sinfulness of man, He is moved by love to initiate a propitiation.

1) The propitiation is Jesus Christ the Righteous.

2) He is the propitiation for the sins of the whole world.

Conclusion: I cannot appease the wrath of God, but I can embrace what God has provided to appease His wrath.