**The Study of 1 John: Joy Through Abiding Fellowship**

**The Advocacy of Christ and the Test of Fellowship – 1 John 2:1-6**

**Hermeneutics: Biblical Theology and Systematic Theology.**

When Systematic theology uses isolated verses to make its point, it stands on shaky ground.

**The Advocacy of Jesus:**

*"1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world." (1 John 2:1–2)*

1. Avoidance of sin.
2. Advocacy when we fail.

**Advocate**: Parakletos: One called alongside. As used here, one called in defense; an attorney.

1. Our advocate is also our propitiation.

**Propitiation:** Hilasmos: Propitiation, an acceptable sacrifice; Appeasement of an offended party.

**The Test of Fellowship and Confidence in Your Salvation:**

*"3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked."* (1 John 2:3–6)

1. You are in fellowship with God when you keep his commandments, i.e., his word. (2:3-5.)
2. You may have personal confidence in your salvation through your obedience. (2:5b.)
3. You are in fellowship with God when you walk as he walked (2:6.)

**Abide**: Meno: To settle down and be at home.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Discuss a time when you needed an attorney; how did you feel? Was your counsel effective? (2:1)
2. Discuss the sacrifice of Jesus. What does this mean to you? (2:2)
3. Discuss the three tests of fellowship and how this motivates your walk with Christ. (3-6)