

Faith Talk - June 14, 2026

Series: 1 John- Life in the Light and Love of God

Sermon: Remain in Him

Scripture: 1 John 2:6

The one who says he remains in him should walk just as he walked.

Sermon Summary

This sermon explores how believers live in authentic fellowship with God, not through striving but through remaining in Him. John clarifies that believers must be aware that they still sin and must practice confession and forgiveness as modeled to us in the gospel. Jesus is our lifetime advocate with the Father, the One who satisfied God's wrath through His complete payment (propitiation) for sin on the cross.

The key to knowing God is not just believing the right things but keeping His commands, which reveal God's character and transform us through experiential knowledge. John emphasizes remaining in His light and presence, which produces transformation.

The test of remaining in the light is love for others, specifically, the ability to love fellow believers with the same love God has shown us in Christ. This love reflects the light and reveals the darkness.

John reminds readers of their identity: children of God (forgiven), fathers (mature in knowing God), and young men (warriors who have conquered through God's Word).

Main Points

- Jesus is our ongoing advocate - His propitiation (payment for sin) is not just at salvation but ongoing sanctification
- Remaining in Him produces transformation - dwelling in Christ produces obedience
- Know God experientially through His commands – knowledge of the true God comes from keeping and wrestling to keep God's commands
- Light produces love; darkness produces bitterness - what you reflect reveals where you're living
- The test of the light: can you love others as God loves? - evidence of remaining in Him and walking just as He walked

Discussion Questions

Conversations with Adults

- John says we know God by keeping His commands. Think of a specific command that's been hard for you. What has keeping (or struggling to keep) that command taught you about who God is?
- Here's the hard test: Can you love others with the love God has shown you in Christ? Who do you struggle to love like that, and what would have to change in you?
- Are you a "child" (newly forgiven), a "father" (mature in knowing God), or a "young warrior" (fighting battles with God's Word)? Which one describes you, and what would growth to the next stage look like?

Conversations with Students

- Remaining in Him sounds passive, but it's actually the key to transformation. When you "try harder" to be good, what happens? When you just stay close to Jesus, what's different?
- John says you get to know God by keeping His commands. Is there a command from Jesus that's hard for you? What's it been teaching you about who He is?
- The big test is: Can you love people who hurt you, annoy you, or don't deserve it? Who is hardest for you to love like that? What would it take to love them the way God has loved you in Christ?

Conversations with Kids

- John says we know God by obeying His commands. Can you think of a command that taught you something about who He is?
- The hardest test is: Can you love someone the way God loves you? Who is hard for you to love? What would Jesus want you to do?
- You're a child of God, growing in your knowledge of Him and becoming a warrior for Christ. What does that mean to you?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for Jesus, our advocate with You, who paid the full price for our sin and makes ongoing forgiveness possible. We're grateful that we don't have to strive in our own effort but can remain in You and be transformed by Your presence.

We ask for help in truly knowing You, not just believing correct things about You, but experiencing You through obedience to Your commands. Teach us who You are through wrestling with what You ask of us. Help us to remain in the light, confessing sin as it's revealed and receiving the cleansing work of Christ.

We commit to the hardest test: loving others the way You've loved us. Help us to extend grace, forgiveness, and kindness not because people deserve it but because that's who You are and who You're making us to be. Transform us from the inside out so we reflect Your light and love to a watching world. In Jesus' name, Amen.