

FIRST JOHN 1:5–2:2
‘An Advocate with the Father’
14 & 17 March 2024

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God is ‘light’

1:5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

Jesus claimed, "He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me. I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness." John 12:45-46

Date of 1 John: Near the year 100

- Message: Heard and announced, neither a dream nor a feeling.
- Light: Truth, goodness, and love.
- Darkness: Lies, evil, and hatred.

God’s attributes/qualities

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Non-communicable | Communicable |
| ● Free (independent) | ● Invisible Spirit |
| ● Not changing | ● All knowing |
| ● Eternal (forever) | ● All powerful |
| ● Everywhere | ● Truth (never lies) |
| ● Complete/unity | ● Holy (dangerous) |
| ● Creator | ● Love (giving) |
| ● Planner (will) | ● Wise (intelligent) |

1st & 2nd century Gnosticism

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, [then] we lie and do not practice the truth; ...

- Walk: How we live, believe, behave.
- Fellowship: Belong, share, enjoy.
- Lie / truth: Both believe and behave.

The blood of Jesus

7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

- Blood: When he died on his cross.
- Cleanses: Forgives and makes us new.
- Sin: Everything bad we ever did.

Deceiving ourselves

8 If we say that we have no sin, [then] we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

- Have sin: We were born able to sin.
- Deceive: Choose to tell or believe lies.
- Truth: What God has said about us.

To have sin

- “Every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Gen. 6:5).
- Jesus said, “You are evil” (Luke 11:13).
- “Sin ... dwells in me” (Rom.7:17, 20).
- Everyone is born able to disobey God, and everyone will disobey God.
- Only God is perfect and is able not to sin.

We confess our sins

9 If we confess our sins, [then] He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- Confess: Agree with what God says.
- Faithful: God keeps his promises.
- Forgive: God withholds punishment.
- Cleanse: God treats us as his children.

Deceiving ourselves

10 If we say that we have not sinned, [then] we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

- Sinned: We have disobeyed God.
- Liar: Either God has lied or we lied.
- Word: “The Word” = Jesus (1:1; 2:14).

We say that we have not sinned

| Inner (mental) sins | Outer (behavioral) sins |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| ● Anger | Abuse, violence |
| ● Covet | Theft, larceny |
| ● Disloyal | Apostacy, treachery |
| ● Greed | Fraud, deceit |
| ● Hatred | Murder, false testimony |
| ● Lust | Adultery, immorality |
| ● Pride | Scoffing, lying |
| ● Stubborn | Rebellion |

Societal sins that God will judge

1. Ethnic prejudice
2. War, invasion
3. Wealth confiscation
4. Mob action, violence
5. Gender confusion

6. Slavery, captivity
7. Prostitution
8. Abortion on demand
9. Child mutilation
10. Idolatry, priestcraft
11. Long imprisonment
12. Drug traffic
13. Organized crime
14. Compounded usury

That you may not sin

2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.

- Children: Young Christian believers.
- Writing: Holy Scripture (the Bible).
- Not sin: Christians are able not to sin! (But do.)

We have an Advocate

And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ...

- Anyone: Willingly, ignorantly, forced.
- Advocate: The only intercessor (1 Tim 2:5).
- Father: God sent his Son to save us.
- Righteous: God listens to him, accepts us.

Propitiation (sacrifice)

2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

- Propitiation for sins: Jesus' death satisfies God's holy wrath against sin.
- Whole world: Anyone may repent, believe and be saved!

Seven Purposes of Jesus' death

- Propitiation: Satisfy God's justice.
- Expiation: Remove sinners' guilt.
- Purification: Cleanse the way to God.
- Redemption: Set us free from the devil.
- Reconciliation: Establish friendship.
- Justification: God forgives the guilty.
- Demonstration: Show God's love for us.