

Seven Historic Christian Doctrines from 1 John 1:5—2:2

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Light and Darkness. God is light, that is, the Father and the Son are just and morally pure, have no sin, cannot lie, and cause no one to do evil. Those who disbelieve God or who disobey God are in darkness.

Truth and lies. God has spoken to humanity through prophets and through Jesus Christ. God's words are entirely true. Those who say anything that contradicts God's revealed messages are liars, and they make God out to be a liar.

Sin and unrighteousness. When human beings violate God's words, laws or commandments, they commit sin and become unrighteous. Humans have sin, that is, a capacity and will to commit evil, and they commit sins, acts that offend God. Having committed sins, humans become unrighteous, that is, they break their fellowship with God.

Jesus. The eternal son of God became a human being through birth. Jesus led a sinless life, worked merciful miracles, declared himself to be One with the Father, atoned for human sins by his death, rose back to life, and has ascended bodily into heaven, serving as Advocate before God in behalf of Christian believers.

Christ. God revealed to his prophets that a descendent of King David would one day rule over all nations. They foretold where and when he would be born, that he would perform signs, and how he would suffer and gain glory. The man Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Forgiveness of sins. God remains 'faithful and just,' remitting or cancelling the sins of human beings who confess their sins. God cleansing humans from their sins by the blood or death of Jesus Christ.

Propitiation. Jewish and Roman leaders conspired together and crucified Jesus. Because Jesus was both God and sinless Man, his death propitiates God, that is it satisfies God's holiness, and it expiates (pays the penalty of) human sins.