

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice (propitiation) for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. (1John 2:1-2)

I. God's Heart & Provision for our sin (v.1-2)

1. Speaking to his spiritual children, John writes...
 - a. *I'm writing to you so that you won't sin... But if you do...*
2. Jesus Christ is our Helper.
 - a. Advocate with the Father - (*parakletos*) – intercessor, comforter, counsel for defense.
 1. NIV says Jesus is the One who speaks to the Father in our defense.
 2. *Christ, who is at the right hand of the God, who makes intercession for us* (Rom 8:34).
 - b. Propitiation (atonement) for our sins – *and not for ours only but also for the whole world.*
 1. Jesus' death on the Cross atones (satisfies, covers) my sins (Rom 3:25; Heb 2:17; 1Jn 4:10).
3. What does this mean to us?
 - a. Realize the reality of our tendency for sin... live repentantly before God, confessing our sins and receiving forgiveness and cleansing – acknowledging Jesus Christ as our Advocate and living in the atoning grace of His shed blood.
 - b. Our tendency is to cover sin: *He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy* (Proverbs 28:13).
 1. Sin seeks to isolate and separate.
 2. Sin = walking in darkness - Fellowship with God = walking in the light
 - c. Jesus is the answer to sin issues: Don't walk in darkness & hidden sin, turn to God, confess sin and walk in the light of fellowship with Him.
 - d. Confess to one another: James 5:16 - *Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed.*
4. Benefits of confessing sin...
 - a. The light of the Gospel breaks into the darkness and seclusion of the heart.
 - b. The hidden, secret and unexpressed is brought to light and acknowledged.
 - c. Light can dispel the power of sin and darkness.
 - d. Humbling ourselves before God and others deals with pride and self-deception.
 - e. Confessed sin is the pathway to walking in the light and finding true fellowship with others and with God (1:3).

Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. (1John 2:3-6)

II. How do you 'know that you know' Jesus? (1Jn 2:3-6)

1. *By this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments* (v.3)
2. He who 'says' and doesn't 'do' is a liar *and the truth is not in him* (v.4).
3. *But whoever keeps His word...*
4. *Truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him* (v.5).
5. If our confession is to be true, we must walk as Jesus walked (v.6)...
 - a. Jesus was a Father pleaser (John 8:29).
 - b. Jesus did only what the Father told Him (John 18:28).
 - c. Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit (Mat 4:1).