

1 John 1:8-10 *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

## 1. Introduction

- a. John the apostle witnessed (heard, seen, & touched) Jesus the revealed Son of God, 1 John 1:1
  - b. Problem of human philosophy in first century – Gnosticism: the false doctrine that the eternal spirit of a person is not affected by the behavior of the body; the two are separate.
  - c. Gnostics claimed that physical body is evil but the human spirit is always good. Gnostics false teaching about Jesus is that He came to redeem the human spirit and separate it from the sins of the body. They denied Jesus resurrected from the dead physically, but only spiritually. Many cults of our day teach this same philosophy.
2. A False Claim: “*If **we say that we have no sin**, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*”
- a. Claim of no sin in current life
    - i. Attempt to justify or explain away the sin
    - ii. The Bible teaching is clear, that all people have evil within – all humans have sinned yesterday, are sinning today, or will sin tomorrow
    - iii. This absence of truth results in self-deception
  - b. Human self-deception
    - i. Even Paul the apostle struggled against deceiving himself  
Romans 7:18-21 *For I [Paul] know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me [because I want to do that which is good]; but how to perform that which is good I find not [but I can't seem to do that good deed]. <sup>19</sup>For the good that I would I do not [I don't do the good that I want to do]: but the evil which I would not, that I do [but I do the bad thing that I know I'm not supposed to do]. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do that I would not [if I do that bad deed], it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me [it's not my desire, but the sin that lives in me, that does the bad deed]. <sup>21</sup>I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.*

Galatians 5:17 *For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other [enemies of each other]: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*

- ii. Deceiving spirits out in world to persuade you to do evil because of their false teaching

1 John 4:1, 3 *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try [test] the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. ... <sup>3</sup>And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*

- iii. Holy Spirit can be quenched (suppressed, the last spark extinguished)  
1 Thessalonians 5:19 *Quench not the Spirit.*

c. Sanctification for Christian

- i. Honesty with God about my sin
- ii. Grow in God's grace

2 Peter 3:18 *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.*

- iii. Growing conformed into image of God's Son

Romans 8:29 *For whom he [God] did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [Jesus] might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

- iv. Christian has an Advocate (Jesus Christ the Righteous, the Word of Life) with the heavenly Father

1 John 1:1 *That which was from the beginning, which **we have heard**, which **we have seen** with our eyes, which **we have looked upon**, and **our hands have handled**, of the Word of life;*

1 John 2:1 *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate [someone who's always with us and knows what to do] with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

d. Christian sin nature

- i. Peter the Apostle's great sin was that he denied the Lord 3 times before Jesus died. Jesus forgave him and restored him. Jesus had special message for the disciples, and particularly Peter, to see him in Galilee, given by an angel to Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome at Jesus' tomb:

Mark 16:7 *But go your way, tell his disciples **and Peter** that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.*

- ii. Christian has an inner witness (God's Word that brought you to salvation)

1 John 5:10 *He that believeth on the Son of God **hath the witness in himself**: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.*

- iii. Christian trusts in the living God

1 Timothy 4:10 *For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, **because we trust in the living God**, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe.*

3. A Full Confession "**If we confess our sins**, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"

a. Confession is:

- i. Saying same thing about our sin as God & agreeing with Him
- ii. Being "real with God" in agreeing that God is correct in all areas of my life

b. Proclamation

- i. God is the faithful & just God to forgive our sins & clean us up
- ii. God gives a negative & a positive
  - a) Negative: do not try to cover sin
  - b) Positive: confess & forsake sin

Proverbs 28:13 *He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.*

- iii. If you continue in your sin, especially if it doesn't bother you, God will discipline you as a parent, sometimes severely.

Hebrews 12:5-6 *And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, "My son, despise not thou the chastening [punishment] of the Lord, nor faint [and don't give up] when thou art rebuked of him: <sup>6</sup>For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."*

4. A Faithful Cleansing

a. Provision for cleansing

- i. God calls Christian to live changed life (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- ii. Spiritual disciplines are a part of the Christian life. We do not rely on obeying the Law for our salvation, but we still have behaviors we must avoid and some we must do.

Romans 13:9 *For this [example], Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is*

*briefly comprehended* [understood] *in this saying, namely, **Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.***

- iii. God will not hear my prayers when I have sin in my heart

Psalm 66:18 *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:*

- iv. Husband's prayers can be hindered by how he treats his wife

1 Peter 3:7 *Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them* [your wives] *according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; **that your prayers be not hindered.***

- b. The Faithful Cleansing (The basis for cleansing)

- i. Blood of Jesus Christ

1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as he* [Jesus] *is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.***

- c. The Blessing of Cleansing

- i. Staying constantly in fellowship with the Lord Jesus (**relational cleansing**)
  - ii. Salvation gave me **redeeming cleansing** (I won't lose my salvation if I fail to confess my sin, but I will lose close fellowship with God)
  - iii. Sanctification gives me **restoring cleansing** (Knowing we can please God and have close fellowship with Him right now, before heaven)

- d. Two parts to forgiveness

Peter's example of 2 kinds of cleansing when Jesus washed his feet. Peter wanted a bath, but Jesus said he only needed to clean his feet.

John 13:9-10 *Simon Peter saith unto him, "Lord, [wash] not my feet only, but also my hands and my head." <sup>10</sup>Jesus saith to him, "He that is washed needeth not [another bath] save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit [but that person is clean everywhere]: and ye are clean, but not all [but not every part of you].*

- i. "Judicial forgiveness" is in salvation where Jesus completely cleans you up the first time
  - ii. "Personal forgiveness" is in confession, when you lose your fellowship with God & need your dirty feet washed (confess your sin)

## 5. Conclusion

- a. The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) was welcomed back home by his father when the dad saw that the son had agreed that sinful living was wrong. It didn't matter how much money was lost, only that his son had returned.
- b. God is that same Father, who will always accept us when we have confessed our sin. If we must go through some form of punishment, he is still wanting us to come back to Him in restored fellowship.