

# SIN - THE PROBLEM THAT DISRUPTS OUR FELLOWSHIP

I John 1:8-2:2 (NLT)

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## INTRODUCTION:

**I John 1:5** This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. <sup>6</sup> So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

*Key Word - Sin is man's declaration of independence from God. The recognition of sin is fundamental to our understanding of every aspect of our existence.*

**I John 1:8** If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth.

1. Salvation is a gift, and it is only given to sinners!
  - A. The Holy Spirit brings conviction.
  - B. Conviction brings us to the cross.
  - C. Our rebellious pride declares that we are good enough and in no need of God.

**I John 1:9a** But if we confess our sins to him,

2. When we confess, we agree with God.
  - A. An excuse is not confession.
  - B. An explanation is not confession.
  - C. "corner contrition" - "I feel bad that I have painted myself into a corner."

**II Corinthians 7:9** ... the pain caused you to repent and change your ways. It was the kind of sorrow God wants his people to have, so you were not harmed by us in any way. <sup>10</sup> For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death.

**I John 1:9b** ... he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

3. He is "just"?
  - A. Forgiving is the right thing to do because of what Jesus did on Calvary.
  - B. God's forgiveness is compatible with His holiness.
  - C. His forgiveness cleanses us of all wickedness!

<sup>Psalm 103:10</sup> He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. <sup>11</sup> For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. <sup>12</sup> He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. <sup>13</sup> The Lord is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him.

#### 4. Our self-righteousness is a religious dead end.

**1 John 1:10** **If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.**

<sup>Matthew 5:20</sup> “But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!”

#### 5. It is not hypocritical to aim for perfection!

**1 John 2:1a** **My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin.**

#### 6. When the inevitable happens.

**1 John 2:1b** **But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. <sup>2</sup> He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.**

<sup>Hebrews 2:14</sup> Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. <sup>15</sup> Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.

<sup>16</sup> We also know that the Son did not come to help angels; he came to help the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.

<sup>Hebrews 4:13</sup> Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.

<sup>14</sup> So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. <sup>15</sup> This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. <sup>16</sup> So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.