

# 1Jn 1:5-10

Nov 20, 2016

1Jn 1:5-10 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. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 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. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

## I. Jesus is God and Man

**A. Proofs of the divinity of Jesus Christ** The identity of Jesus Christ as God is clearly stated in the NT

### 1. Jesus calls Himself "the Son of man" 76 times

(Mt 8:20; 9:6; 10:23; 11:19; 12:8, 32, 40; 13:37, 41; 16:13, 27, 28; 17:9, 12, 22; 18:11; 19:28; 20:18, 28; 24:27, 30, 37, 39, 44; 25:31; 26:2, 24, 24, 45; Mk 2:10, 28; 8:31, 38; 9:9, 12, 31; 10:33, 45; 14:21, 21, 41; Lk 5:24; 6:5, 22; 7:34; 9:22, 26, 44, 56, 58; 11:30; 12:8, 10, 40; 17:22, 24, 26, 30; 18:8, 31; 19:10; 21:36; 22:22, 48; 24:7; Jn 1:51; 3:13, 14; 5:27; 6:27, 53, 62; 8:28; 9:35; 12:23, 34; 13:31) **He is called "the Son of Man" 6 times by others** (Lk 24:7; Jn 12:34; Ac 7:56; Heb 2:6; Rev 1:13; 14:14).

### 2. The NT affirms the divinity of Jesus

Jn 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (Jn 1:18)

Heb 1:8 But of the Son He says, "YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM. (see also Rom 9:5; Phil 2:6;; Tit 2:13; 2Pt 1:1)

### 3. NT Statements imply the divinity of Jesus

Mt 1:23 ...AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

Lk 1:35 ... the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

Col 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Col 2:9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,

1Ti 1:17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, ...

1Jn 5:20 ... in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

### 4. Scriptures that use Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Mt 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Jn 14:16 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

2Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Eph 2:18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

(Eph 1:13-14; 2:22; 3:14-17)

Eph 4:4-6 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

### 5. Jesus came to earth from heaven (Jn 3:13,31; 6:41-42,62; 13:3; 16:28)

### 6. OT passages fulfilled in Jesus (Joel 2:32 with Rom 10:13; Isa 6:10 with Jn 12:40-41; Isa 8:14 with Rom 9:33; Ps 68:18 with Eph 4:8)

### 7. Jesus claimed to be one with the Father (Jn 5:17-18; 10:30-33,36-38; 12:45; 14:7,9-11; 17:11,21)

### 8. Jesus forgave sin (Lk 5:20-24; 7:47-48; Mt 9:2-6; Mk 2:5-10)

### 9. The resurrection confirmed the divinity of Jesus (Rom 1:4; Ps 2:7; Ac 13:33-35)

### 10. Jesus was worshipped as God

(Lk 24:52; Mt 2:11; 28:9,17; Jn 9:38; 2Ti 4:18; 2Pt 3:18; Rev 1:5-6; 5:12-13; 7:10)

### 11. Prayer addressed to Jesus (Ac 7:59-60; 9:13; 1Cor 16:22; Rev 22:20)

### 12. Names and titles that confirm divinity of Jesus:

**Judge** (Jn 5:27; Mt 25:31-33; Mk 8:38; Ac 17:31; Rom 2:16; 2Cor 5:10)

**"I am"** (Jn 6:35; 8:12; 10:7,11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1; 18:5-6; Ex 3:1)

**Savior** (Ac 5:31; Ac 4:12; Eph 5:23; Heb 7:25)

**Lord** (Rom 10:9; Lk 1:43; 2:11; Jn 13:13; 1Cor 12:3; 2Cor 4:5; Rev 19:16)

**Creator** (Col 1:16; Jn 1:3,10; Ac 3:15; Rom 11:36; 1Cor 8:6; Heb 1:2,10; Ps 102:25)

**Shepherd** (Heb 13:20; Jn 10:11-16; 1Pt 2:25; 5:4)

## **B. The humanity of Jesus Christ**

Scripture stresses the total humanity of Jesus Christ. Although sinless, Jesus shared in the general condition of humanity, including suffering and death.

### **1. Jesus Christ was a man**

By His own claims (Jn 8:40; Mt 8:20; Lk 9:58)

By others (Jn 1:33; 4:42; 7:12,15,27; 9:33; 11:47; 19:5; Mt 8:27; Mk 15:39; Lk 15:2; Ac 2:22-23)

### **2. Jesus Christ shared in the general condition of humanity**

Jesus assumed human nature (Jn 1:14; Phil 2:7-8; Heb 2:14; 1Jn 4:2)

Jesus was a human descent (Rom 1:3; Mt 1:1; 13:54-56; Mk 6:2-3; Rom 9:5)

Jesus' body could be handled and touched (1Jn 1:1; Mt 14:36; Mk 6:56; Lk 2:28; 1Ti 3:16)

Jesus had a soul (Mt 26:38; Mk 14:34; Isa 53:11)

### **3. Jesus Christ partook of human experience**

He was born (Gal 4:4; Lk 2:6-7)

He grew and developed (Lk 2:40,52)

He was hungry (Mt 21:18; Mk 11:12; Mt 4:2; Lk 4:2); He was thirsty (Jn 19:28; Jn 4:7)

He was tired (Jn 4:6); He slept (Mt 8:24; Mk 4:38; Lk 8:23)

He was tempted (Heb 2:18; Mt 4:1; Mk 1:13; Lk 4:2;; Heb 4:15)

Jesus was a sinless human being (Heb 4:15; Lk 23:41,47; Heb 7:26)

Sinlessness does not make Jesus Christ less human.

He suffered (1Pt; 4:1; Col 1:22; Heb 5:7-8; 10:10; 1Pt 2:24)

He physically died (Mt 27:50; Mk 15:37; Lk 23:46; Jn 19:30)

### **4. As a man Jesus Christ -**

Made atonement for sin (Rom 5:18-19; Rom 5:12-17; 1Ti 2:5; Heb 2:17)

Gives us resurrection (1Cor 15:21,45; Phil 3:20-21)

Gives us help in our need (Heb 2:18; 4:15-5:2)

Gives us example of how to live (Phil 2:5-8)

### **5. The risen Christ has human characteristics**

He was not a ghost/spirit

He could eat (Lk 24:37-43)

He could be physically touched (Jn 20:27)

His return will be physical, in a human body (Ac 1:11)

## **II. "If" is used 20 times in 1Jn (We have six of them in this section.)**

**1Jn 1:6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; Having fellowship with God leads to walking in the light and practicing the truth. People embrace the lie when they fail to practice the truth, walking in darkness.

**1Jn 1:7** 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.

The result of walking in the Light are:

- 1) fellowship with other believers
- 2) the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.

**1Jn 1:8** If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Walking in the truth is to acknowledge the sin we have in our lives.

Self deception is denying the real condition of our lives.

**1Jn 1:9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The benefits of confession of sin are - to experience:

- 1) God's faithfulness and righteousness
- 2) forgiveness of sin
- 3) cleansing from all unrighteousness.

**1Jn 1:10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

Lack of confession of sin is calling God a liar.

When God's word is in us we will see our sin and confess it.

**1Jn 2:1** My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

The word of God gives us ability to overcome sin.

When (if) the Christian sins:

Jesus is our advocate - defense attorney.

Jesus is our righteousness - He is the righteous One.

## II. Word and phrase study of 1Jn 1:5 - 2:2

**1Jn 1:5 "the message we have heard"**

"we" refers to John and the other eye-witness, hearers and followers of Jesus during His earthly life.

"heard," John is affirming his personal presence at Jesus' teaching sessions.

**"from Him and announce to you"**

"from Him" refers to Jesus.

"announce" literally means "to bring back word,"

John is passing on Jesus' revelations, not his own!

"to you" - (probably referring to the churches of Asia Minor)

John directly speaks to his readers

**"God is Light" -**

emphasizing the moral aspects of God's nature

1Tim 6:16 who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light,...

Jas 1:17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

The gnostic false teachers asserted that light referred to knowledge, but John asserts that it refers to ethical purity. "Light" and "dark" were common terms (an ethical dualism using these terms is also found in the Dead Sea Scrolls and early gnosticism). It related to the dualism between good and evil and possibly the gnostic dualism of spirit versus matter.

John's theological assertions about deity:

1. "God is light" (1Jn 1:5; Jn 1:4,9; 8:12; 9:5; 12:35-36)

2. "God is love" (1Jn 4:8,16)

3. "God is Spirit" (Jn 4:24)

**"in Him there is no darkness at all"**

Is an assertion of the unchanging holy character of God (1Tim 6:16; Jas 1:17; Ps 102:27; Mal 3:6)

**1Jn 1:6 "If we say"** - Referring to the claims of false teachers

1Jn1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1Jn1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

1Jn 2:4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

1Jn 2:6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

1Jn 2:9 The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now.

Presenting truth in a question/answer format (a diatribe) can be seen in:

Mal 1:2, 6, 7, 12; 2:14, 17; 3:7, 14; and in Rom 2:3, 17, 21-23; 3:1, 3, 7-8, 9, 31; 4:1; 6:1; 7:7;

**"we have fellowship with Him"**

The heretics claimed that fellowship was based on knowledge only. This was an aspect of Greek philosophy from Plato.

Christians are to be imitators of Jesus and other mature believers.

1Cor 11:1 Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ. (3Jn 11; Eph 5:1; 1Thes 1:6; 2:14; Heb 6:12).

**"yet walk in the darkness"**

"Walk" is a biblical metaphor expressing the Christian moral lifestyle (Eph 4:1,17; 5:2,15)

God is light with no darkness. His children are to be like Him (cf. Matt. 5:48)

### **“we lie and do not practice the truth”**

John calls and refers to some religious people liars (1Jn 1:10; 2:4, 20; 4:20; Isa. 29:13). Lifestyle actions reveals what is in the heart (Mat 6:19-21; 12:33-37; 15:17-20).

### **1Jn 1:7 “but if we walk in the Light”**

**“Walk ”** emphasizes continuing action.

#### **“Truth” in John’s writings:**

Truth is something we live, not just something we know! Truth is a key concept in John.

The Greek term *alēthes* (true) and *alētheia* (truth) and their related forms relate to:

1. God the Father
  - a. He is true (Jn 3:33)
  - b. His word is true (Jn 17:17)
2. Jesus the Son
  - a. He is full of grace and truth (Jn 1:14, 17)
  - b. He speaks the truth (Jn 8:40, 45-46; 16:7; 18:33, 37)
  - c. He is the truth (Jn 14:6)
  - d. He who knows Him knows the truth (Jn 3:21; 1Jn 1:6)
3. God the Spirit
  - a. He is called “Spirit of Truth” (Jn 14:17; 15:26; 16:13; 1Jn 4:6; 5:7)
  - b. He will lead into all truth (Jn 16:13)
4. God’s redeemed children
  - a. They worship in spirit and truth (Jn 4:23–24)
  - b. they are sanctified in truth (Jn 17:19)
  - c. They live the truth (1Jn 1:6; 2Jn: 4; 3Jn: 3-4)
  - d. They know the truth and do not lie (1Jn 2:21; 2Jn: 2)
5. The unredeemed (non-Christian)
  - a. They and their father the devil do not stand in truth (Jn 8:44)
  - b. They do not have the truth (1Jn 1:8)
  - c. They are liars (1Jn 2:4)
  - d. They opposite of truth is “the lie”
6. The term (and its related forms) can mean:
  - a. Truthfulness or dependability (ability to perform what is required)
  - b. Truth in word and action (the gospel is both)
  - c. Reality versus mere appearance, that which is true and genuine (true vs. false)

**“as He Himself is in the light”** We are to reflect His character to a lost world.

### **“we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”**

**“the blood of Jesus”** This refers to the sacrificial death of Christ (Isa 52:13 - 53:12; 2 Cor 5:21).

The innocent died on behalf of the guilty!

- 1Jn 2:2 He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.”  
Jn 1:29 “behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”

The Gnostics denied Jesus’ humanity; John’s use of “blood” reinforce Jesus’ true humanity.

### **“cleanses us from all sin”**

Notice this verse is not focusing on a one-time cleansing (salvation), but an ongoing cleansing (the Christian life); Both are to be part of the Christian’s life (Jn 13:10).

#### **Word Studies from the Greek New Testament;** by Kenneth Wuest

The words “one with another” are the translation of a preposition and a reciprocal pronoun in the Greek text. A reciprocal pronoun shows reciprocity. Wonder of wonders, not only do we have fellowship with God, but He reciprocates in having fellowship with us! This fellowship is not a one-sided affair like that of a couple, only one of which is in love with the other. God condescends to have fellowship with worms of the dust, sinners saved by grace, creatures of His handiwork.

And while we are having this fellowship with Him, the blood of Jesus, His Son, keeps constantly cleansing us from sins of omission, sins of ignorance, sins we know nothing about in our lives and for the reason that we have not grown in grace enough to see that they are sin. These would prevent our fellowship with God if this divine provision of the constant cleansing away of the defilement of sin in our lives was not taken care of by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. So holy is the God with whom we have fellowship.

### **1Jn1:8 “If we say that we have no sin”** Sin is a spiritual reality in a fallen world.

John addresses this issue often

1Jn 1:7-8 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. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1Jn 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

1Jn 3:4-5 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.

1Jn 3:8-9 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. 9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

1Jn 5:16-17 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make request for this. 17 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death.

Jn 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Jn 5:14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you."

Jn 8:7 But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, " He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her."

Jn 8:11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, " I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more."

Jn 8:21 Then He said again to them, "I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come."

Jn 8:34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.

Jn 8:46 "Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?

Jn 9:41 Jesus said to them, " If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Jn 15:22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.

Jn 15:24 "If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well.

Jn 16:8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

Jn 16:9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;

Jn 19:11 Jesus answered, " You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."

### **“we are deceiving ourselves”**

This is personal, willful rejection of truth, not ignorance.

### **“the truth is not in us”**

To be accepted by God

1) no denial of sin, 2) recognition of our sin 3) acceptance of His provision in Christ.

### **1Jn1:9 "If we confess our sins”** This is a compound Greek term from “to speak” and “the same.”

Confess (is in Gk. present tense), which implies ongoing action.

Confession of sin implies

1. Specific naming of sins (1Jn 1:9);
2. Admitting to God (1Jn 1:9);
3. Admitting to others, public confession (Mt 3:6; Mk 1:2; Ac 19:18; Jas 5:16);

### **“He is faithful”**

God (the Father) is faithful (Dt 7:9; 32:4; Ps 36:5; 40:10; 89:1,2,5,8; 92:2; 119:90; Isa 49:7; Rom 3:3; 1Cor 1:9; 10:13; 2Cor 1:18; 1Thes 5:24; 2Tim 2:13).

God is faithful to His Word (Heb 10:23; 11:11).

God is faithful to His Covenant (Jer 31:34 - )

Jer 31:34 ... for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more. (Jer 31:31-34)

### **“and righteous”**

God takes our sins seriously yet He has provided the means for our forgiveness in the substitutionary death of Christ.

Rom 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Rom 3:21-25 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; 25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;

Rom 10:3-4 For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God . 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

2Cor 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

### **“to forgive us our sins”**

Mt 26:28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

Ac 13:38-39 "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, 39 and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses. (Ac 2:38-39; 5:31; 10:43; 26:18; Lk 24:46-49)

Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

Col 1:13-14 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Heb 10:17-18 "AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE." 18 Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin.

### **"and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"**

Tit 2:14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

OT prophetic promise of cleansing (Jer 33:8; Ezk 36:25; 37:23)

**1Jn1:10 "If we say “we have not sinned”** this implies that one has never sinned in the past nor in the present.

“sinned” is singular - refers to sin in general;

sin is both commission (wrong things done) and omission (failure to do the right thing)

The false teachers claimed salvation was related only to knowledge, not to life.

### **“we make Him a liar”**

The gospel is based on "all have sinned" (Rom 3:23)

Rom 3:3-4 What then? If some did not believe, their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of God, will it? May it never be! Rather, let God be found true, though every man be found a liar, as it is written, ...

### **“His word is not in us”**

word (logos) is both a message (Jn 2:2; 4:41; Ac 6:7) and a person (Jn 1:1,14; Rev 1:9; 19:13)